

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Do you support putting Article 12 on the ballot this year?

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## INSIDE

### LOCAL



Yvette Bennett is a step closer to her goal of being crowned 2012 Miss Idaho.

➤ **PAGE 2**

### NATION



A JetBlue pilot storms through his plane, rambling about a bomb.

➤ **PAGE 14**

### LIFE & STYLE



World War II albums document an often forgotten Nazi crime—the massive pillaging of artwork.

➤ **PAGE 19**

**Saipan casino signature drive off to a good start. PAGE 2**  
**Child care beneficiaries fear cancellation of applications. PAGE 5**

## ALTHOUGH NOT CERTIFIED

# 'Mafnas carried 2 service guns'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

**R**amon C. Mafnas obtained two government-issued service guns as Department of Public Safety commissioner and Department of Corrections secretary, although he was not certified for both firearms, Police Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero said yesterday.

» **BMV director, 6 others file grievance with OPM**

As this developed, Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana C. Leon Guerrero and six other BMV staff filed a grievance complaint before the Office of Personnel Management against Mafnas for alleged harassment, intimidation, and creating a hostile working environment.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Mafnas.

Capt. Leon Guerrero told Saipan Tribune that DPS regulations require the

**See MAFNAS on Page 4**

*Inos: We want to ensure fair investigation*

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday the Fitial administration is concerned about all the allegations being raised against Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas but they want to ensure that each of these al-

**See INOS on Page 4**

## Man has heart attack while driving



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Police officer Daniel Smith interviews the owner of a vehicle (not seen in this photo) that was one of two vehicles hit by Leslie Debrum's Ford Ranger yesterday afternoon in Susupe. This Toyota Hilux parked at the Joeten Center compound was the second vehicle hit. Debrum passed away after reportedly suffering heart attack while driving the Ranger.

## I-Denni remediation on hold

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has temporarily suspended its remediation

in I-Denni on Capital Hill while waiting for additional funding needed, now that the volume of excavated polychlorinated biphenyl- and lead-contaminated soil—now at least 2,099 cubic yards—is proving to be much larger than the original estimate of

**See I-DENNI on Page 4**

» **Volume of contaminated soil 250 pct. more than anticipated**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A motorist reportedly suffered a heart attack while driving along Beach Road in Susupe, causing his car to swerve and hit two vehicles that were parked at the Joeten Shopping Center compound yesterday afternoon.

Saipan Tribune learned that the driver, Leslie Debrum, described as in his 50s, later passed away.

Debrum's lone passenger—his 8-year-old granddaughter—suffered minor bruises on her

**See MAN on Page 4**

» **Granddaughter suffers minor injuries, 2 parked vehicles hit**

## PROJECT PROM!

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence program coordinator Kiki Igitol, left, and program assistant Keala Peters join Pena House Boutique sales associate Marissa Castro, center, for a photo at the shop yesterday afternoon. Pena House Boutique is donating prom dresses and accessories for Project Prom drive that will be held this Saturday at Minatchom Atdao from 10am to 2pm and the public is encouraged to donate new or gently used formal wear.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## Local

## Saipan casino signature drive off to good start

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Nathania Maui, 65, voted against legalizing casino gaming on Saipan twice before but now that the question could be in the Nov. 6 ballot again, she said this time around she will vote "yes" because the CNMI economy has gone from worse to worst.

"I want the Retirement Fund to be helped. I am a retiree and I may not be able to get my benefits if the Fund is gone. I also want the economy to be helped. I voted 'no' to casino two times; now I'm voting yes. Why not give it a try this time?" Maui told *Saipan Tribune* after sign-

ing a casino initiative petition yesterday.

Joseph Lisua, a jobless 26-year-old resident of San Jose, said he hopes the casino initiative will succeed so that those who are unemployed like him could have another industry to look forward to.

"I think the casino is going to help the island, help the government so it can help CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] and all employees," he said, adding that he invited his friends to also sign the petition.

Lisua said he has been unemployed for almost a year, owing to the difficulty of finding a job amid the economic crisis. He believes that by allowing ca-

sinos to open on Saipan, there will be more economic activities and opportunities that will be created.

Maui and Lisua were among the 64 individuals who went to the Carolinian Utt starting at 4:30pm yesterday for the launching of a campaign to solicit at least 2,500 to 2,700 signatures within weeks so that the Saipan casino question could be included in the ballot.

Dr. Jack Angello, one of the organizers for the signature campaign, said he's "very pleased" with the turnout. The one-hour campaign gathered 64 signatures, in addition to the signatures collected since at least Monday when the full text of the proposed initiative was finalized.

"There's still a lot of work ahead of us. We will do our best. I thank those who came out and signed the petition," he said.

Angello and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), along with Esther Koshiro, assisted Saipan voters who showed up to sign the petition.

Also among those who signed the petition were retirees who want to prolong the Retirement Fund's lifespan.

Gonzalo DLG. Pangelinan, turning 65 in April, said if the

casino question is placed on the ballot, it would be his third time to vote "yes to casinos."

Saipan voters had twice rejected Saipan casino legalization; the last one was in 2007.

But Pangelinan, just like others interviewed yesterday, said the result could be different this time.

"The economy is suffering. Retirees like myself and those who will retire in the future may not get our benefits if we no longer have the Fund. I want casinos so we can generate revenues to help the Fund, help the retirees and everyone in the community," he added.

Juan M. Sablan, a former chairman of the Commonwealth Retirees Association, said he feels bad that active members of the Fund may not see any penny of what they have been contributing if the Fund goes bankrupt.

"That's why I urge them to vote on this; it's an effort to save

the Fund. Without a casino industry, we won't have any new industry," he added.

Sablan also said had Rota and Tinian senators passed the House bill, retirees from their islands could also benefit.

Manasses Castro, 70, said times are tough and the CNMI needs a new source of revenue.

The Koblerville resident said if people are worried that casinos will bring prostitution and theft, for example, they are wrong.

"Even before there's any casino here, there's already prostitution and theft around. Give casinos a chance to help save the economy," he said.

Herman Q. Guerrero, a former member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, was also among those who signed the petition.

Movers of the signature campaign said that by allowing

casinos to operate on Saipan, 80-hour work every two weeks could be restored. Local revenues, license fees and gross gaming revenue tax will be used to help fund the Retirement Fund, the medical referral program, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board and other programs and services on Saipan.

The 22-page local initiative requires a \$5 million initial license fee to be paid within 90 days after the license approval and \$200,000 in annual license fee every year thereafter.

Three casino licenses are available: two for an existing hotel with at least 250 guest rooms, golf club resort or resort, and one for a new investment of at least \$100 million inclusive of a hotel resort or convention center. One other casino license is also available to a Northern Marianas descent corporation.

## Yvette Bennett is a step closer to the Miss America crown

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Yvette Bennett is a step closer to her goal of being crowned 2012 Miss Idaho—and eventually Miss America—after winning this year's Miss Meridian on March 24.

Bennett will be among local titleholders—all official contestants for the scholarship pageant—who will be attending on Friday and Saturday the scheduled orientation for the scholarship pageant this year.

"Should I win the Miss Idaho title, it will be on to the Miss America pageant," Bennett, a former member of the CNMI national athletics team, said in a statement.

Despite her radiant smile and great physique, the path that took Bennett to the crown didn't come easy.

Bennett's journey for the pageant title began a year ago when she came across the Miss Boise Scholarship Program while looking for ways to get assistance for her education. She became a pageant volunteer "to get a clear view of what to expect when I become a contestant."

Bennett entered the contest on Feb. 24, which won her the Community Support Award for having the most number of tickets sold and the Miss Congeniality Award based on the votes of all pageant contestants.

On March 3, Bennett joined her second pageant, Miss Gate City in Pocatello, Idaho, where she won Best in Swimsuit.

Then came the Miss Tri-Counties, which Bennett said is believed to be one of the most popular and toughest local pageants to win. Bennett rose to the challenge on pageant night, March 17, taking home the first



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yvette Bennett, left, has her picture taken with Miss Idaho.

runner-up title and the Best in Swimsuit award.

"After placing in this pageant, I knew I had to keep going because I was getting closer to getting the title," she said.

And she did—and it came sooner than she thought—being crowned Miss Meridian only last Saturday.

Bennett said she couldn't believe that she was going to win the title after the long journey. "It just goes to show if you know what you want in life, you are going to keep going and not let anything get in your way but

the outcome."

Bennett's father, Ambrose Bennett, said his daughter is "truly" making a name in Idaho not just for herself but also for the CNMI and he thanked all their supporters and those who have been following Yvette's journey on Facebook.

"We are extremely proud of Yvette and her accomplishments as she strives to become a professional model. She definitely has the beauty, the brains and the persistence it takes to be a winner and top model in America," added Ambrose Bennett.

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# PROJECT: PROM

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This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-MU-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

# Babauta denies claim that DPL failed to remit millions to MPLT

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta countered yesterday allegations that the agency violated the Constitution by failing to remit millions of dollars to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Babauta was earlier urged by the MPLT trustees to make the necessary remittance to the trust for its investment growth. Numerous letters were sent, all claiming either the questionable calculation of the remittance made by DPL or the lack of finan-

cial information provided to the MPLT by the department. DPL was also accused of violating the mandates of the law regarding the yearly remittance to the trust.

In a March 22 letter to MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero, the DPL chief asked for more time and denied the implication that the department violated the law.

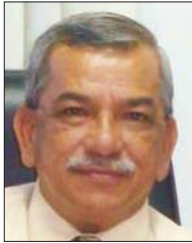
"The Department of Public Lands has carefully reviewed your letter sent Feb. 24, 2012, containing your allegations that DPL has violated the Constitution of the NMI by failing to remit all funds properly owed to MPLT.

DPL has at all times fully complied with its constitutional duties with respect to MPLT and remitted all funds properly owed to MPLT. Further, DPL categorically denies your assertions that it is in possession of several million dollars that should be remitted to MPLT," Babauta told Deleon Guerrero in the letter.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Babauta admitted that since he took over, he has no concrete knowledge of how DPL truly stands finan-

cially. This is the why the public lands agency commissioned an independent auditor to compile the agency's records for a comprehensive financial audit that will cover previous fiscal years, he said.

Babauta said that DPL understands the current pressures on MPLT, which has on its table numerous loan applications from both private and public entities. However, he appealed for MPLT's consideration, specifically on the records it is asking from the agency.



Babauta

## US embassies in Japan, Korea now also offer CW visa services

Commonwealth-only worker visa application services are now also available at the U.S. embassies in Japan and Korea, in addition to the one in Manila, Philippines.

More information about the CW visa service in Japan is available at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/jp/jp-niv-paymentinfo.asp>.

For Korea, the website is <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/kr/kr-niv-eft150.asp>. Unlike other embassies in other Asian countries, the CW visa application fee is \$140 at the U.S. Embassy in Korea.

U.S. embassies in other Asian countries such as China where many of the foreign workers in the CNMI come from have yet to offer CW visa services.

Some Chinese workers interviewed said they have yet to be given any schedule for a CW visa interview after costly and time-consuming calls to embassies in China.

"First they didn't know what CW visa is. I called several times. Every phone call I have to buy special card, which is \$5.50 to \$8 for every 12 minutes. I already called many times," said Joyce Su, who has been a foreign worker in the CNMI for 23 years, earlier said.

Another foreign worker from China, one of the managers at Hyatt Regency Saipan, along with a friend of his, has also been having difficulty scheduling a CW visa interview.

Only those with CW permit

could apply for a CW visa at a U.S. embassy so that they can return to the CNMI after a vacation or emergency travel.

Because the CW visa application service is new and still needs further assessment, the second person to apply for such a visa in Manila had to wait for three weeks to get his CW visa after he was interviewed. He has since been back on Saipan.

CW is a new visa category created pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control. The transitional visa is "valid only for entrance into the CNMI."

Visa holders cannot use CW visas to travel to or work anywhere else in the United States. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

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## I-DENNI

From Page 1

only up to 600 cubic yards.

PCB and lead are toxic chemicals associated with serious health and environmental concerns.

The volume of PCB- and lead-contaminated soil so far excavated from the I-Denni pit is almost 250 percent more than the original estimate of only up to 600 cubic yards, a figure earlier provided by the Division of Environmental Quality.

The pit in I-Denni, sometimes referred to as Edoni, was used by the U.S. military during and after World War II as a waste repository. It has been identified as a formerly used defense site, or FUDS.

Access to the I-Denni excavation site and the area leading to it has been closed off for days as a result of the temporary work suspension, two months since remediation began on Jan. 17.

Joseph Bonfiglio, chief of public affairs at Army Corps-Honolulu District, said yesterday that site remediation is still ongoing but has been temporarily suspended for a few weeks "as we wait additional funding."

"Onsite activities are tentatively scheduled to resume on or about 16 April 2012," he told *Saipan Tribune* via email.

Bonfiglio said the Army Corps "is in current contract negotiations for the additional contamination and cannot discuss the amount until the contract modification is completed."

The Army Corps contractor for the I-Denni project is the Hawaii-based Wil-Chee Planning Inc., which has its own

subcontractors.

The area is a future site of a planned homestead subdivision. But before the Department of Public Lands could proceed with the homestead project, it wants the site to be cleaned up.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday it's "unfortunate that the Army Corps runs out of funding" for the remediation.

"DPL is hoping that funding will be identified to complete the project. We will continue to impress upon Army Corps the need to complete this so we could use the site for our projects such as for homesteads," said the former House speaker.

Of the 2,099 contaminated soil so far excavated, approximately 1,092 cubic yards are tainted with PCB and some 1,007 cubic yards are tainted with lead, said Bonfiglio.

"It's not surprising that they are finding more contamination in that area," said Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan). "I remember right after the war, that site was the largest dumping ground for all kinds of military toxic wastes and other types of garbage."

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI and a resident of Capital Hill, said he hopes the federal government provides the Army Corps with the funding it needs to finish the project it has already started.

"I hope they don't get caught in the bureaucracy and end up not completing this cleanup. The military brought these chemicals, they have to clean it up," he added.

Bonfiglio said the highest level of PCB found in the soil in I-Denni is 6.1 milligrams per kilogram. The cleanup level for PCB is 1.1 parts per million.

warranted abusive and foul language, public ridicule and humiliation, and the bully attitude thrown at us by Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas," complainants said.

The BMV employees asked OPM to immediately initiate an investigation and hearing on their complaint.

A copy of the complaint was submitted to the CNMI Civil Service Commission and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The complainants alleged that they were not the only targets of Mafnas' abusive behavior as he would also shout at and harass BMV customers.

"We find that he is quick to harass customers who are not locals and for no reason at all," the BMV employees said.

The BMV staff recalled that in December 2011, Mafnas would visit the bureau at least twice a week to check on the status of the driver license system as he has been apparently receiving complaints of delays in the issuance of driver's license.

Mafnas would allegedly shout at BMV employees in front of customers as to why the system is down.

"He expects us to do miracles with the system which we were never trained to repair or service," the employees said.

Mafnas allegedly refused to hear the employees' recommendation and thought that the employees were intentionally breaking the system.

The new driver's license system kept experiencing failure such as inputting driver license information and printing the new cards. The BMV staff said they worked with the department's information technician, who had been delegated to oversee the maintenance of the system. Failing to resolve the malfunction,

The PCB-contaminated soil is now being shipped to Beatty, Nevada for proper disposal.

The lead-tainted soil, meanwhile, has and will continue to be transported to the Marpi solid waste facility, Bonfiglio said.

He added that the 2004 remedial investigation reported a soil sample containing a total lead concentration of 4,970 milligrams per kilogram.

"Each project has its own unique challenges in the Pacific area. We work with the local regulators, landowners, and community to ensure public health and assure that we provide the highest standard of safety," Bonfiglio said, when asked whether the I-Denni project has been among the fastest or easiest to complete.

He reiterated that the project is still ongoing.

"We, however, will be cleaning up to an unrestricted use level which is safe for a homestead subdivision and for all uses," Bonfiglio said.

The Army Corps works with the Division of Environmental Quality to prioritize FUDS projects within the CNMI.

Bonfiglio said that when funding becomes available, the Army Corps then begins to fund the higher priority projects within the CNMI.

"Our goal in the FUDS program is to reduce the risk to human health and the environment through implementation of effective, legally compliant and cost-effective response actions done to the highest standards of safety," he added.

Besides I-Denni, there are other FUDS on Saipan that require remediation, including the Hospital Dump Site, American Memorial Park, Naftan

tions, the information technician eventually referred BMV to Saipan Computer Systems to fix the system.

Director Leon Guerrero said that Mafnas did not offer any assistance or solution to fix the malfunction and instead continued to humiliate her and her staff in front of every customer.

"We have tried to tolerate his crude and bully behavior but his weekly visitation for the sole purpose of harassing us is beyond what any person or government employee can tolerate," the BMV employees said.

On Monday morning, an Attorney General's investigator visited director Leon Guerrero at BMV and inquired about what is going on with DPS and the commissioner. The director related to the investigator what they had been experiencing with Mafnas.

Within 20 minutes after the investigator left her office, director Leon Guerrero said that Mafnas' secretary called and asked her and driver's license technician Guadalupe Repeki to meet with him.

Leon Guerrero said she refused to do so for fear of harassment.

The complainants said the commissioner's treatment of them and customers is uncalled for and not the actions of a competent and level-headed manager.

"His treatment has to stop, not only to the staff of BMV [and] myself but to the other silent victims who are afraid to report Commissioner Mafnas' intimidation and harassment. It is so sad that we tried to tolerate such a hostile working environment," the BMV employees said.

*Saipan Tribune* broke the story on Friday about complaints that Mafnas allegedly harassed two Filipino security guards and a Korean dive instructor in separate incidents last year in Marpi

Bomb Storage, Ordnance Plan, Naftan Ordnance Disposal, North Field, Marpi Point Field, Tanapag Fuel Farm, and Koblerville Naval Supply Center.

The I-Denni remediation was originally budgeted \$603,543.73, but because the volume of contaminated soil has grown, the actual cost was expected to exceed that figure.

The I-Denni project comes nine

## Woman in job scam gets 6 months in prison

The federal court imposed yesterday a six-month prison term on a woman who was convicted of engaging in a fraudulent scheme to entice Chinese nationals to come to the CNMI to work in non-existing jobs.

Heqian Ma was given credit for the 113 days she has already spent in jail. Upon release from prison, she will be placed on one year of supervised release.

One of the conditions of supervised release is that Ma shall report to an immigration official for removal proceedings.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona required her to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,010, to be divided by victims Weifeng Guo and Yuyan Li. Ma was also ordered to pay a \$200 special

assessment fee.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton moved for the downward departure of Ma's sentence. Court-appointed counsel Michael Evangelista recommended that his client be sentenced to time already served.

Ma pleaded guilty in September 2011 to two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting as part of a plea agreement with the U.S. government. According to the indictment, on Dec. 16, 2010, Ma enticed Chinese couple Weifeng Guo and Yuyan Li to come and reside in the CNMI, knowing that their entering would be in violation of law.

Ma recruited the couple in China for non-existent jobs in the CNMI, according to the prosecution. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

where it crossed an island and struck the left side of a parked Toyota vehicle.

Debrum's vehicle continued to move, leveling a bougainvillea plant and then hitting the right side of a Toyota Hilux that was parked near the restaurant Dish of Saipan.

The strong impact caused a big dent on the right side of the Toyota Hilux. Its two rear wheels were displaced.

Astonishingly, Debrum's vehicle suffered only moderate damage to the right front bumper side.

Medics responded and brought Debrum and his granddaughter to the Commonwealth Health Center.

At the scene, medics and police officers noticed that Debrum already had no pulse.

and that's just the way it is. It doesn't have to be a commissioner for public safety," Inos added.

The Office of the Attorney General has started reviewing the matter and has sought the assistance of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"The only thing we hope and this is for everyone, that the officers, the commissioner himself... we do this thing in the most objective and fair manner because we treat everybody with respect, we treat everybody with fairness, so it's not one versus another. We gather the facts, validate the facts and then make the best decision," he said.

### 4 proclamations

Inos signed four proclamations yesterday morning, including one that declared April 2012 Environmental Awareness Month and April 22 CNMI Earth Day.

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman and other DEQ employees witnessed the signing of the proclamation which this year has the theme, "My Air, Your Land, Their Sea. Our Environment."

Inos also proclaimed April 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Those who attended the proclamation chanted this year's theme, "It's time... to talk about it. Connect. Respect. End Sexual Violence," as they drummed up support for activities and programs that help address sexual violence.

## MAFNAS

From Page 1

commissioner, a police officer, or a corrections officer to complete a mandatory 40 hours of training for marksmanship instruction and certification before being allowed to carry a gun.

"He never attended the training!" said Capt. Leon Guerrero, who spearheaded the petition seeking Mafnas' ouster from DPS.

Instead, Mafnas ordered range instructor David Hosono to issue him a .9mm pistol in his capacity as DPS commissioner, said Capt. Leon Guerrero.

Mafnas also obtained a .9mm pistol as DOC secretary.

Capt. Leon Guerrero said that Hosono couldn't do anything about it since Mafnas is the DPS chief and Corrections secretary.

"[Mafnas] thinks that as the commissioner he's god," Leon Guerrero said.

As of 1pm yesterday, Mafnas already turned in to Hosono the service firearm issued him as DPS commissioner, Capt. Leon Guerrero said, adding that Mafnas had already surrendered the other gun issued him as Corrections secretary.

He said that Mafnas should surrender the guns to DPS.

In the grievance complaint dated March 26, 2012, submitted to OPM director Isidro K. Seman, BMV director Leon Guerrero and six other employees claim that Mafnas created a hostile working environment at the bureau.

"We just cannot continue to be target of a weekly ritual of fear, of being ridiculed for making mistakes, fear of going to work, fear of intimidation, un-

## DUE TO DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF CW PERMITS

# Child care beneficiaries fear cancellation of applications

» **DCCA extends deadline to submit CW permits**  
 » **January checks for child centers out today**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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 REPORTER

Many foreign parents of U.S. citizen children under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' child care program are worried that their applications may be cancelled as they have yet to meet all program requirements, including the submission of a contract worker's permit from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Today, March 29, is DCCA's deadline for all parents to submit their child's birth certificate, W2 form, check stubs, and CW permit for non-resident workers.

Since Monday, several parents have been appealing to DCCA to extend the deadline.

A single mother of a 1-year-old son, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said yesterday she is losing hope that her son will be accepted to the program because she still lacks a CW permit.

"I am worried because I was

informed by a DCCA staffer that incomplete documents will mean cancellation of our application that was already approved. I hope they will consider our situation, that the issuance of the CW permit lies with USCIS and it's beyond our control. As much as we want to have it now, we have no choice but to wait," said the Chalan Kanoa mother.

A mother of three from As Lito shares the same worry. Two of her children are already in the program and the pending application is for her youngest child. Despite having her own CW permit, she has to wait for her husband's CW permit, which is part of the requirements. This week, she was informed that her youngest child's application for the program may be cancelled if they fail to submit all the requirements.

Another mother in her early 30s from San Jose feels that the situation is unfair because the benefits she is applying for is for her U.S.-born children.

A check with a number of

child care centers yesterday showed a shared concern about the situation. "If their applications will be cancelled, this will only mean that many children will be taken to non-certified centers or baby sitters. The important issue here is the safety and welfare of the kids," said a child care center owner in Chalan Kiya, which has about 50 affected parents on its list.

## Last-minute decision

Upon hearing the concerns of affected parents, DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao extended yesterday the submission of documents for new applications to May 15. He said the

CW permit is a major requirement of the program.

"The department extended the deadline so we can assist those affected parents to complete all the requirements. The documents we asked from them are all major requirements and in consideration of their situation, the department made the decision today," Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon.

Faisao said that if a large number of parents do not get their CW permit by May 15, the department will ask Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to request USCIS to expedite the processing of affected individuals. "That's our plan in case

they have yet to receive their permits by the time."

## January checks out today

Faisao also said that child care centers will get today their reimbursement checks for January 2012. DCCA released the center's December checks in late February. Owners of child care centers earlier complained that the lengthy delay in issuing the checks is affecting their operations.

Yesterday, Faisao reiterated that pursuant to policy, DCCA has 19 days to complete the payment review from vendors. After which it will be transmitted to the Department of Finance, Procurement &

Supply, down to the Treasury Division for final assessment and check issuance. As far as DCCA is concerned, the agency is complying with its 19-day policy, Faisao said. He cannot, however, speak on behalf of Finance for the next processing steps.

Faisao earlier explained that the delay in the issuance of the last three checks (October, November, December) was due to the 16-hour austerity measures in government—which affected employees of Finance and DCCA, among others. The holiday breaks, he said, also contributed to slowing down the processing of documents.

## Free farming course at MHS

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
 clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

Eligible U.S. workers can now learn the basics of farming and agriculture following the introduction of a new course administered by the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Agriculturist Isidoro T. Cabrera said yesterday that he began teaching Basic Farming at Marianas High School starting March 6.

The course is offered every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 3:15pm to 4:30pm.

Cabrera said the course was made possible through a \$1 million technical assistance grant from the Office of Insular Affairs, which aims to identify and develop economic opportunities in the Commonwealth to fulfill the requirements of Public Law 110-229, which placed the CNMI's immigration under federal control.

Cabrera, adviser to the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association committee, said that NMTI founder Anthony Pellegrino offered him the position "and I accepted immediately because it's a very exciting job."

Cabrera said the class is open to all U.S. qualified workers for free. The course starts with a short lecture but the greater part of the course is field work, which allows

students to receive hands-on training from planting to harvesting short-term crops.

The course will also involve field trips to large private and commercial farms on island.

"I'm introducing basic farming knowledge to individuals who want to learn how to start their own farm plots and be self-employed and earn money in the process," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cabrera disclosed that the number of his students per class range from 18 to 25 individuals, which shows that there is interest for a basic farming course on island.

Cabrera, who is also the vice president of the Sabalu Farmers Market Association, said his students will be planting vegetables like eggplant, tomato, pepper, Chinese cabbage, radish, string beans, and green onion at their 40 x 60-foot plot at MHS campus.

The students, Cabrera said, will harvest the crops sometime in April or May in time for the 2012 Saipan Agricultural Fair.

"When we harvest the vegetables, we will have a field day so the students can exhibit their own produce to the rest of the community," added Cabrera.

The course will run until June. To sign up for the class or for more information, call 483-1785.

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Life in Motion

# Emergency oil spill support service for power plants sought

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is seeking experienced contractors on island that are capable of performing emergency oil spill containment of up to 1,000 gallons for power plants 1 and 2, including their surrounding areas and the one-mile long fuel pipeline from the supply point.

Based on the emergency re-

quest for proposal, the service is primarily intended for Saipan. However, CUC may require the same services for its Rota and Tinian power plants.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this contract will enable CUC to comply with a 2009 court order to create an infrastructure for safe storage, handling, and transfer of fuel, including environmen-

tal site cleanup.

"In accordance with Stipulated Order No. 2, the CUC has to have a contract and develop procedures to conduct immediate assessment, response and proper cleanup of onshore oil spills. The CUC is in the process of updating its plans and procedures, obtaining the appropriate equipment and completing the requisite training," he said.

According to Malae, the ex-

isting contract for these services expires in April 2012 and an extension is being requested to July 2012.

He said the existing contract was a sole source award in October 2010 due to the limited number of interested who would be able to provide the required services and respond within the time allotted. The sole-source contract has a limit of \$60,000 and funding was sourced from

the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

"The emergency procurement is necessary to ensure that a contract is in place prior to the current contract expiring, otherwise CUC will be without emergency oil spill response capabilities," Malae explained.

Until CUC has a fully functional and equipped response team with approved plans and procedures, the agency will have

to rely on an outside contractor to perform these services.

CUC said it will consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other stakeholders prior to the final selection of a contractor.

## Tobacco merchant workshop today

The Department of Commerce, Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division, in collaboration with the Division of Public Health of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., are conducting a joint Tobacco Merchant Workshop today, March 29, 2012, at the Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe. The workshop is from 9am to 11am, with a total of 100 retail establishments confirmed to attend.

According to Division of Public Health's Reyna M. Saures, "The workshop aims to educate and train the participants on the importance of reducing, if not eliminat[ing], the use of tobacco products by our youths in the CNMI. The program also targets the updates of laws, and the critical issues of retail stores selling tobacco products and the emphasis in combating and preventing the use of tobacco products by minor under 18 years of age."

"The workshop will also cover discussions relating to tobacco products or cigarette brands that are prohibited [by law] for importation, distribution, and sell in the CNMI, including the latest results in the enforcement of contraband cigarettes," said Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division director David R. Maratita.

For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065 or the Division of Public Health at 323-6571. (Office of the Governor)

## MEET THE MMAC TEAMS

### Team NMPASI

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

MMAC Committee's Note: As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 MMAC committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. or NMPASI is the Com-

monwealth's designated protection and advocacy system operating with the mission "to protect the civil, legal, and human interests of individuals with disabilities."

The agency is forming a team for the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer, which is composed of employees, board of directors, Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness or PAIMI council, and their families.

Many of the members of Team NMPASI will be involved for the first time in the annual Marianas March Against Cancer event next month, although their former executive director became active in the past, according to team captain Greg Borja.

Borja said that among NMPASI's annual goals is for its programs "to disseminate information relating to the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities to the community at large, including fact sheets and brochures, during events held in collaboration

with other organizations."

"MMAC works with a group of people who have disabling conditions, so it was natural to collaborate with them by participating in this event," he explained.

Asked about their tent activities during the event slated for April 27 to 28, Borja said, "We will show some short videos about disability awareness, we will hand out informational brochures, and we have activities that teach teambuilding and problem solving."

Their favorite part of the event,

Borja said, is working with other community members.

"We're still new to this, so I say talk to people who are already involved with the event and jump in feet first. If you don't have a big team, collaborate with and join with others who are also trying to form a team," Borja advised those who are considering forming a MMAC team.

For more information about NMPASI and its programs and services, visit [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org) or contact 235-7273 or 74 (voice) and 235-7278 (tty).



The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. team.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# Japanese dancers to fly in for Saipan Awaodori Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Fourteen professional dancers from Japan are expected to arrive on Saipan for the annual Saipan Awaodori Festival to be hosted by the non-profit group PDM Promoters, Inc. next month.

The visitors are members of the Tokyo Tensuiren Group, which is part of the Koenji Awaodori Organization, a group that performs during Awaodori festivals in Japan.

Awaodori festivals are celebrated with thousands of dancers performing the Awa dance to

upbeat music and parade along the streets.

This year's Saipan Awaodori Festival event, slated for April 19 at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, marks the 5th celebration of the festival on island, PDM Promoters' Sonia Siwa told *Saipan Tribune*.

The annual event will coincide with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Garapan Street Market every Thursday.

Siwa disclosed that last year, PDM Promoters did not host the festival because of the Great East Japan or the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake on March 11.

She said the 14 visiting Awaodori dancers will perform with more than 50 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

The performers, who will have their traditional street dance along Paseo de Mari-

anas to Coral Tree Avenue and parts of Beach Road in the afternoon, will perform for the crowd at the Paseo de Marianas at 6pm and 8pm.

Siwa noted that the group will have a pre-performance at 9am at Koblerville Elementary School, home to more than half of the membership of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

She said Saipan Awaodori Team members have been conducting "rigid practices" every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Koblerville Youth Center and every Friday at the Kinpachi Restaurant building in preparation for the festival.

"We are inviting the community to come and celebrate with us this enjoyable festival," added Siwa.

For more information, call 234-6900.

## 2 Saipan beaches assigned red flags

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the beaches fronting the Hafadai Hotel and Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week.

Meantime, the division also analyzed 11 water samples collected from Tinian's beaches and dock this week and none contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. DEQ has therefore assigned a green flag for all Tinian beaches.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

## Kingfisher gives to the *man'amko*

Kingfisher Golf Links showed its support for the island's elderly by making a donation to the *man'amko* this month.

Representatives of the company presented on March 15 a check worth \$916.97 to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council officers at the Aging Center.

Walter Manglona, program coordinator at the Aging Office, told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview that Kingfisher Golf Links regularly donates to the *man'amko* through the council.

Their donation, Manglona said, augments the funds used by the council to enhance their programs at the center.

"We're very grateful to the Kingfisher golf company and I'm sure the *man'amko* appreciate their generosity," added Manglona.

The seniors will be in the spotlight during the celebration of *Mes Man'amko* or Older Americans Month in May. (Clarissa V. David)

## NCD community forum on Tinian

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health would like to inform the Tinian community that a forum on non-communicable diseases will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Fleming Conference Room.

The forum, like those recently held on the island of Saipan, will touch on issues of non-communicable diseases and associated risk factors that are the most common causes of disability and death of our people. This epidemic of NCDs is directly linked to four risk factors—poor diet, lack of physical activity, tobacco use, and alcohol abuse. NCDs are lifestyle related, and for the most part, preventable.

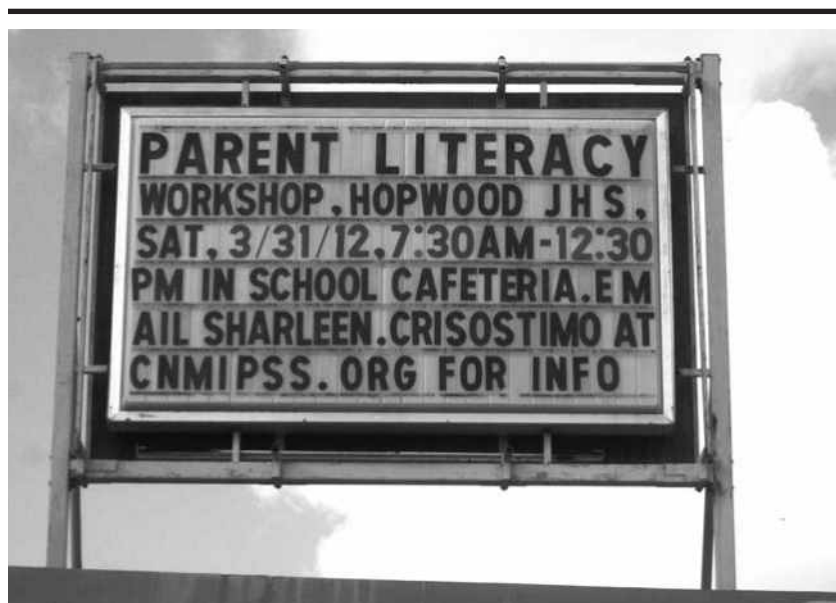
The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Division of Public Health recognizes that NCDs are not only an epidemic,

but a true public health emergency. In spite of our efforts to date, this epidemic has steadily become worse.

The most effective response to NCD's will come from the community, and that a "whole of society" approach is needed. For this reason, the Tinian community is urged to attend the community forum, which will allow for open discussion and sharing of ideas on how to effectively combat NCDs in our islands.

The forum is open to the general public and everyone is called upon to help fight against NCDs in the CNMI. Similar forums on Rota will follow in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact the Division of Public Health at 236-8703, 285-3735 or via email at [chpublichealth@gmail.com](mailto:chpublichealth@gmail.com). (PR)



### HOPWOOD NOTICE

Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood uses the Midway Motors billboard on top of the Marianas Visitors Authority to inform parents about the upcoming Parent Literacy workshop on Saturday, March 31, 2012. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## USCIS seeks public comment on revisions to Form I-9

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services published yesterday a notice in the *Federal Register* inviting public comment on a revised Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. Employers must complete Form I-9 for all newly hired employees to verify their identity and authorization to work in the United States. The public is invited to comment on the revisions until May 29, 2012.

Key revisions to the form include:

- Expanded Form I-9 instructions and a revised layout.
- New, optional data fields to collect the employee's email

address and telephone number.

■ New data fields to collect the foreign passport number and country of issuance. Only aliens authorized to work in the U.S. who have also recorded their I-94 admission number on Form I-9 will need to provide the foreign passport number and country of issuance.

The public may comment on the revisions by visiting [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), which provides instructions on how to comment on the proposed revisions to Form I-9. The comment period runs for 60 days, beginning yesterday and ending May 29, 2012.

The current version of Form I-9 is available on USCIS' on-

line I-9 resource center at [www.uscis.gov/I-9central](http://www.uscis.gov/I-9central). I-9 Central includes information about employer and employee rights and responsibilities, step-by-step instructions for completing the form, and information on acceptable documents for establishing identity and employment authorization.

USCIS will post information regarding a new Form I-9 on I-9 Central once the form has been finalized. Until a new version is approved and posted, employers must continue to use the current version of the form.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). (USCIS)



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## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the OVR staff will be on a two-day staff development this coming Wednesday and Thursday (03/28-29/12) from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Because of this important training, the OVR office will be closed temporarily just for these two days. Your understanding and support will be much appreciated. For any emergency alert, 287-6548 and 287-6538 should be contacted. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

*This message is brought to you by OVR management and paid for by a grant from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of the Governor and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP12-DOC-062**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 25, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"CNMI PREMIUM RATE REVIEW PROCESS FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THRU THURSDAY EXCEPT CNMI HOLIDAYS)

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. JOHN S. BLANCO, CNMI'S RATE REVIEW PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AT (670) 664-3067 OR E-MAIL TO [cnmiraterreview@commerce.gov.mp](mailto:cnmiraterreview@commerce.gov.mp) NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2012.**

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/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP12-DOC-064**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 30, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"ECONOMIC ADVISOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED ON **APRIL 12, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MARK RABAUJIMAN, ECONOMIC AND LABOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECT COORDINATOR BY FAX TO (670) 664-3067 OR E-MAIL TO [ta.alep@commerce.gov.mp](mailto:ta.alep@commerce.gov.mp) NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 17, 2012.**

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SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

# MTEC begins high school outreach

Marianas Tourism Education Council and the Marianas Visitors Authority kicked off their annual visits to junior and senior high schools this month with a stop at Saipan Southern High School.

MTEC met with student leaders on March 19, 2012, to educate them on the importance of tourism and check in on what the students have done to support tourism over the last year.

"We visited Saipan Southern High last year, and we were very pleased to see the students have a greater awareness of the tourism industry and our major tourism markets," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "Even more importantly, the students were able to share a number of actions they've taken personally since our last visit to support tourism."

Students listed everything from being president of the newly formed SSMS Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically (MY WAVE) Club to inviting tourists to join their family barbecue.



Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente of the Marianas Tourism Education Council kicks off this year's visits to junior and senior high schools with a stop at Saipan Southern High School on March 19, 2012.

"The students enjoyed the presentation, and I hope this would entice the students to join MY WAVE club next school year," said SSMS MY WAVE

advisor Arisa Sakai. "I believe the students should know more about the tourism industry for their future benefit."

MTEC will continue its edu-

cational presentations this week. The council is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the importance of the tourism industry. Membership is open to all interested individuals. (MVA)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 29, 1999

### SGMA, students talk garment, trade issues

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association is inviting students of the Northern Marianas College to participate in a movement growing in the United States toward assuring consumers that apparel from Saipan, and other places around the world, is made by workers who are treated fairly. In a letter sent by the Current Affairs Class at NMC, United International Corporation president James Lin, SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce and William Stewart have been requested to speak to the class, and address general headnote 3(a) and the World Trade Organization issues surrounding the CNMI garment industry. Pierce responded to the NMC students by accepting the invitation to speak, and explaining that university and college students in the United States are insisting that all apparel sold in the U.S., and especially on college campuses, are manufactured in factories that respect their workers' rights.

### Auto shop faces probe for checks

The chair of the House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications urged the Department of Public Safety to investigate a government-sanctioned vehicle inspector for possible violations of its mandate. Rep. David M. Apatang alleged Kim's Auto Shop in Lower Base has allowed vehicles with safety deficiencies to pass the inspection without requiring owners to correct the problems. "Some of these vehicles leave Kim's Auto Shop with head and tail lights missing, uneven tires, signal lights unrepaired, bumpers hanging loosely off the bed of pick-up trucks, just to mention a few," he said in a letter to Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram.

Mar. 29, 2000

### Federal agencies vow to assist in PCB woes

Various federal agencies have pledged to pool together the much-needed resources to assist the Department of Public Health in conducting the medical evaluation of Tanapag residents which would determine their level of exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will send a group of health educators and medical professionals to help train the local people. Likewise, the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer have also promised to assist DPH. "Finally, we are pooling all the resources available together and we've started communicating," said Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

### Budget faces tough time in Senate

The FY 2000 budget bill will face tougher review in the Senate despite unanimous approval in the lower house—a move that could further delay its passage, according to lawmakers. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes said they expect to scrutinize each item in the proposed spending package for the current fiscal year to find out where most of the money have been appropriated. "We are going to look at it and at the same time, try to facilitate the passage of the budget bill," he said.

Mar. 29, 2001

### 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upholds local court decision

US Attorney for the NMI District Frederick A. Black yesterday announced that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the decision of Federal Judge Alex R. Munson to revoke the supervised release of Julie Sablan. Sablan was originally sentenced to six months imprisonment following a 1998 conviction for "distribution of methamphetamine" in violation of Title 21 United States Code 841 (a)(1). Following her release from federal custody, Ms. Sablan was placed under court-imposed supervised release conditions. Her release was revoked by Chief Judge Alex R. Munson following a determination that she failed to meet all the conditions of release, chiefly testing positive for methamphetamine.

### SGMA asks road courtesy for garment factory workers

SGMA Chairman Gonzalo Q. Santos reacted to the latest pedestrian fatality on March 25, where three Chinese workers from Mirage Saipan, Inc. were struck by a speeding vehicle in upper Garapan, by calling on all that are involved for more information. With SGMA Board concurrence at a meeting held March 28, Santos has instructed to have all factories mandated to receive pedestrian safety training courses from the CNMI Department of Public Safety.



### TEACHING SCIENCE

Principal Jonas Barcinas, left, poses with Dr. Thomas Scarlett III, Ph.D., center, the director of Teacher Services, Science Section at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, who visited Hopwood Junior High School to observe science teacher Victor Borja, right, teach his students Foundational Approaches in Science Teaching (FAST).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS



### Lost dog

Snow White, a small white Maltese dog, is missing from Garapan. She was last seen on Tuesday afternoon near 747 Restaurant in Garapan. A \$100 reward is being offered for her safe return. Please contact Eden Villagomez for information at (670) 789-8621. (PR)

### Found dog

A female adult Golden Retriever has been found in the Papago area. She seems to be in good health other than being dehydrated and skinny. If this is your dog or you know whose dog she might be, please contact Sandy Weaver at 989-2502. (PR)

### UOG Math & English Placement Tests on April 21

Students planning on enrolling for the University of Guam's summer sessions must take the Math and English Placement Tests on April 21 at 8am in the CLASS Lecture Hall. Plan to arrive 20 minutes before start time for check-in; bring photo ID and admissions application payment receipt to the test. New student registration for summer sessions A, B and C will be held May 24 and 25. Summer session A runs from May 29 – June 29; session B runs from June 11 – July 28; session C runs from July 2 – August 3, 2012. (UOG)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 17th birthday, Stacey Sanchez! It's your special day to shine so laugh, scream, smile like there's no tomorrow! We love you and may you have many more birthdays to come. Love always, Kaikai, Bedbed, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy Best Friends Day Bedbed and Stacestace! Thanks for all the love and support you give me. I love you and know that we're like the Power Puff Girls! Love always, Kaikai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# US Ambassador to Russia blogs about Guam

## »GVB launches Russian website and social media pages

**TUMON, Guam**—On the first day of the Moscow International Travel and Tourism Fair in Russia, the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands delegation were greeted by U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul. While visiting the VisitUSA Pavilion at the fair, McFaul took the time to attend the Guam-CNMI Destination Seminar, after which he blogged about Guam on his site, <http://m-mcfaul.livejournal.com>.

"Each year, travel professionals from throughout the world, including the United States, gather at MITT to promote their country as a tourist destination," McFaul said on his blog site. "The VisitUSA pavilion highlighted some of my country's great attractions, ranging from New York City ([www.nycgo.com](http://www.nycgo.com)) to Guam ([www.visitguamusa.ru](http://www.visitguamusa.ru)) the latter of which recently launched a visa-free travel program for Russian citizens."

Earlier in the week, the U.S.



Sen. Tina Muña Barnes speaks with U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul after attending the Guam-CNMI Destination Seminar.

Consul General in Moscow and the U.S. Minister Counselor of Commercial Affairs met with the delegation led by Sen. Tina

Muña Barnes, Guam Visitors Bureau deputy general manager Nathan Denight, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing di-

rector Perry Tenorio who were in Russia promoting the region, the only U.S. jurisdictions that allow visa free travel for Rus-

sian nationals. At that meeting the Guam Visitors Bureau launched their new Russian Language website and social media pages—key components of GVB's aggressive marketing plans aimed at the Russia leisure travel market.

"Travel without a visa to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is now possible for qualified Russian travelers, and we are pleased to see the Guam Visitors Bureau actively promoting travel to these U.S. territories here in Russia," said Doron Bard, Consul General, U.S. Embassy to the Russian Federation. "We will continue to support faster, more efficient visa processing for Russian citizens at our embassy and consulates in Russia."

In meetings with the U.S. Embassy, Sen. Barnes relayed the need to establish a strong relationship with them as well as the travel trade in Russia, adding that the meetings that took place were very productive.

"As the chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, I am

honored to be leading this delegation. Our meetings thus far have been very productive and I look forward to establishing strong relationships with our partners in Russia," said Barnes. "We will be traveling on from Moscow to Khabarovsk and Vladivostok and will continue building the network to grow this new and exciting market for Guam."

They continued their promotions this week by conducting road shows for the travel trade and media in the cities of Khabarovsk and Vladivostok.

On Jan. 15, 2012, visitors from Russia became eligible to travel to Guam without a visa requirement and GVB has been aggressively campaigning in Russia in effort to grow and diversify Guam's tourism base. Since the visa waiver went into effect, visitor arrivals from Russia have increased by 192 percent compared to the same period last year, with 336 total Russian visitors in January and February 2012 and 115 total Russian visitors in January and February 2011. **(GVB)**

## Bordallo meets with PACOM commander

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued yesterday the following statement on her meeting with Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, III, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. The delegate and Locklear discussed the overall realignment of military forces in the Asia-Pacific region as well as an ongoing environmental impact study of broad training capabilities for all the military services in the PACOM area of

responsibility.

"Admiral Locklear continued to stress the importance of moving forward with the military build-up and re-emphasized that a forward Marine Corps presence on Guam will be critical to maintaining national security interests," said Bordallo. "As PACOM Commander, Admiral Locklear is working to implement the Administration's strategy to enhance our military presence in the Asia-Pacific, and I look

forward to continued discussions with him on a variety of matters, in particular, the distribution of U.S. Marine Corps forces throughout the region.

"It is important for our leaders from Guam to maintain an open dialogue with federal officials as the Obama Administration continues its negotiations with the Government of Japan on the new plans for the reduction of forces in Okinawa. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues that

matter the most to the people of Guam with Admiral Locklear. I will continue to work with Governor Calvo and the Legislature to address the concerns of our local community using a 'One Guam' approach and to ensure that the build-up is beneficial for all stakeholders." **(Office of the Delegate)**

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo poses with Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, III, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command.



## Subway donates over \$2,000 for UOG 60th anniversary campaign



Subway Restaurants presents a donation of \$2,184.05 to the University of Guam in support of 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign. On hand for the presentation were, from left, Mark Mendiola, executive director, UOG Endowment Foundation; Marcos Fong, managing director, Subway Restaurants Guam; Dr. Robert A. Underwood, president, University of Guam.

**TAMUNING, Guam**—Subway Restaurants presented a check of \$2,184.05 to the UOG Endowment Foundation on Friday, March 23, at the Subway Restaurant in Mangilao.

During the month of February,

Subway Restaurants celebrated the Triton Spirit by presenting a special UOG Triton Menu for the campaign. A portion of the sales of the menu items went to the University of Guam's Capital Fund, which will be used to con-

struct new facilities on campus.

The UOG Triton Menu was made available at all 14 Subway locations in Guam and included the popular classic seafood and crab and the healthy oven roasted chicken sub.

"Subway is proud to contribute to the continued growth of UOG. We appreciate our customers who celebrated the Triton Spirit with us; it is through their support that this donation was made possible," said Marcos Fong, managing director of Subway Guam.

"We knew partnering with Subway would be successful," said UOG president Robert A. Underwood. "We truly appreciate Subway's support of our 60th anniversary capital campaign. These funds will support construction of our new facilities including the Student Services Center, the Engineering School, and the Fine Arts Building. Also, I'd like to thank everyone who ordered the Triton Special at Subway during the month of February! Biba UOG and Biba Subway!"

UOG celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year with fundraising efforts to support the UOG Endowment Foundation's capital campaign. For more on the campus physical master plan and UOG anniversary activities visit [www.uog.edu/2012](http://www.uog.edu/2012). **(UOG)**

## Fijian govt takes control of national airline from Qantas

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)**—Fiji's military government says it is taking control of the country's national carrier Air Pacific from Australian company Qantas.

The government of Commodore Frank Bainimarama has issued a decree saying that all Fijian-registered carriers must now be owned and controlled by Fijian nationals.

Fiji already owns a majority stake in the airline, holding 51 percent of it while Qantas owns 46.3 percent. But Fijian Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said Qantas since 1998 has exercised effective control over the carrier because Qantas-appointed board members enjoy supermajority and veto rights.

Qantas said it would issue a statement later Wednesday.

"It's an open secret that Qantas has proposed to sell their stake to the Fijian government," said Sayed-Khaiyum.

He said the two groups

haven't been able to agree on a price and that Fiji is hoping Qantas will agree to a binding independent valuation of its stake. He added the decree has nothing to do with the potential sale.

However, the Fijian government's latest move could negatively impact the value of the stake to Qantas and to any interested third parties.

In a question-and-answer statement on the change, the Fijian government said it is "false and misleading" to think Fiji is nationalizing the airline and depriving Qantas of its shareholder rights.

Qantas will retain its ownership stake and its right to dividends, according to the Fijian government, but will no longer be able to exercise control over the annual operating budget, the appointment of the airline's chairman, the addition of new routes or a host of other management decisions.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Pope should urge greater freedom in Cuba

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday, March 25:

Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Cuba this week is clearly intended to be a pastoral mission, not a political one. Coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the island's patron saint, the Virgin of Charity of Cobre, it is timed to help revive interest in Catholicism in one of Latin America's less devout countries and to draw followers to the church.

But we hope Benedict's visit will serve another objective as well: to persuade President Raul Castro to abandon his crackdown on dissidents and show greater respect for human rights. Dozens of Cubans have been rounded up in recent weeks, including key members of the Ladies in White, a group of relatives of political prisoners who hold weekly protest marches. And 13 others who camped out in a Havana church to demand a meeting with the pope were detained.

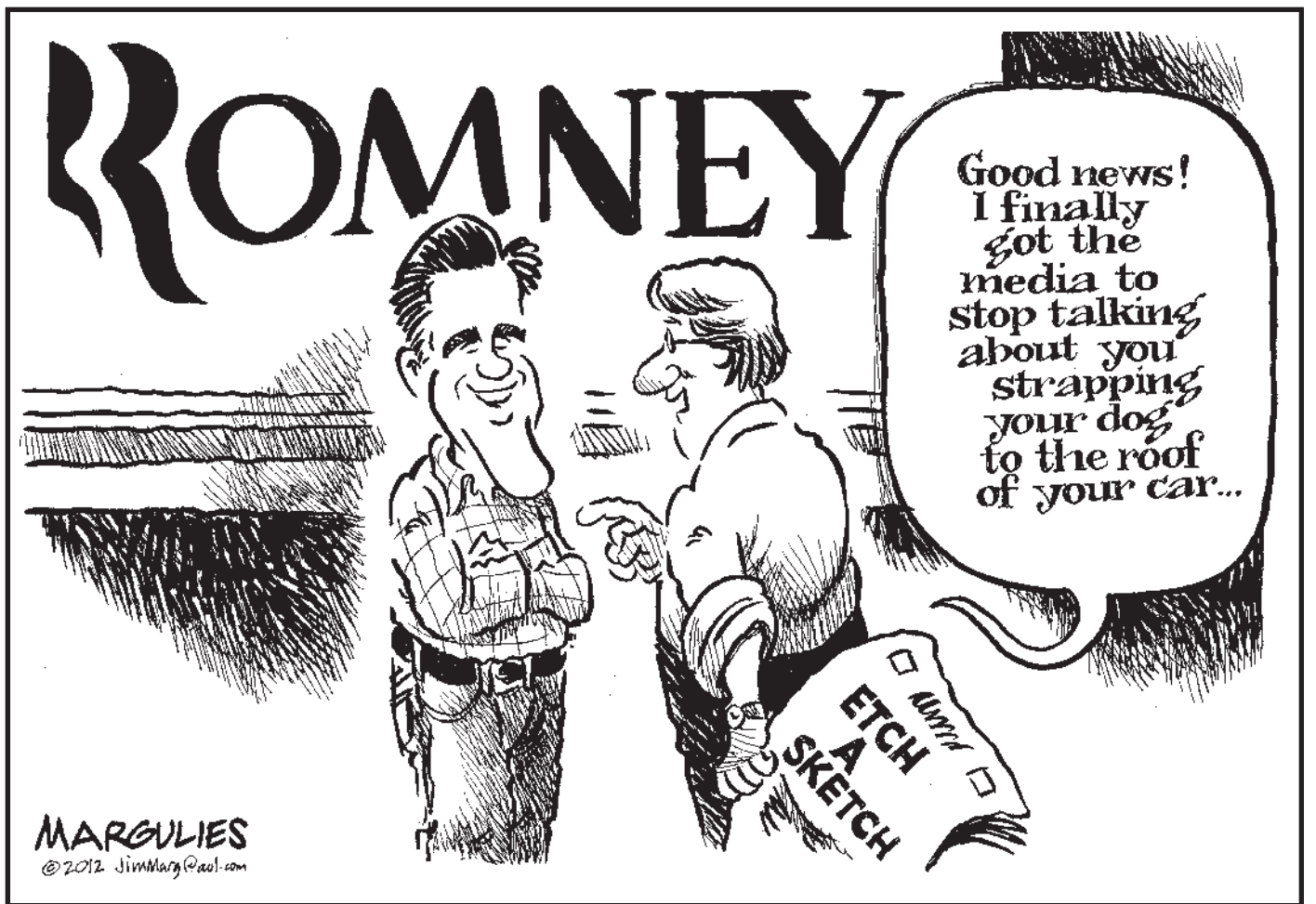
Some critics have expressed concern that the Catholic church is already too cozy with the regime in Cuba, and that Benedict's trip will strengthen Castro, lending moral authority to a government that has been a repeat violator of human rights. But that doesn't have to be the case. In recent years, the church has worked behind the scenes, and in 2003 it secured the release of dozens of dissidents.

On this visit, the pope is scheduled to meet with Castro, which means he'll have the opportunity to suggest that allowing Cubans greater freedom wouldn't undermine the communist regime. While he's at it, he could push for the release of some political prisoners who are ill, along with American Alan Gross, a subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development who was arrested and convicted in 2009 for bringing communications equipment to Cuba's Jewish community and sentenced to 15 years.

Benedict's trip isn't expected to produce the same kinds of reforms that followed the last papal visit in 1998, when Pope John Paul II met with then-President Fidel Castro. After all, that's the trip that led to the official restoration of Christmas on the island. Benedict lacks the charisma and political influence of his predecessor, who was seen as a champion of social justice in much of Latin America. John Paul repeatedly spoke out against human rights abuses and the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba.

Benedict should exercise whatever power and leverage he has with Castro to help not only Catholics, but all Cubans who are silenced by force or fear.

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## Saipan Kios-ku: A Visitor and Learning Center

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Editor's Note: Due to the length of this article, it is being published as a two-part series. The continuing piece will be published in tomorrow's edition of the Saipan Tribune.*

Not only is the Saipan *kios-ku* a part of history, but one that also contributes to history in the making, serving as a living example of a community-based partnership initiative. The *kios-ku* is setting a trend in neighborhood revitalization. It showcases the vast historic assets Saipan offers in the inner villages, making the inner villages unique visitor and learning centers for island residents and visitors to appreciate and learn from. The renewed effort by the council in making Saipan villages learning centers and tourist magnets promotes environmental stewardship and ultimately builds sustainable communities that thrive on their unique historic characteristics.

Spearheading the village sustainable project, the Saipan municipal council partners with regulatory, permitting, community development agencies, the business sector and common ordinary citizens on Saipan in establishing Saipan's first local memorial *kios-ku* in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan's oldest capital village and the center of local government during the Trust Territory period.

The *kios-ku* project is the council's first concerted revitalization effort in the village of Chalan Kanoa—one that is intended to draw tourists to the village for cultural sightseeing and lessons in local history, culture, and leadership in public service.

The goal of Saipan's village revitalization initiative is to build local capacity for villagers to identify, develop and promote a marketing niche within their respective villages, by showcasing hidden priceless historic and cultural treasures. These treasures would give

residents and visitors a better understanding of and appreciation for the people living in the villages, their history, lifestyle, legends and folklores, culture, and demographic characteristics. These natural treasures also promote environmental stewardship of the natural scenic resources in the villages. Such natural and manmade resources capturing our imagination, for example, include Saipan's largest fresh water lake in Susupe, a breeding ground for local land turtles and a variety of wildlife and Chalan Kanoa's District One wetland forest, a prime nesting ground for wildlife from as far as Japan. The vestiges of the Japanese sugar factory at the Mt. Carmel campus is an historic fact about economic prosperity during the Japanese era and the role sugar once played as an important export commodity shipped out of the nearby sugar dock across from the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. The footprints of this era remain to this day as seen on the rows of old Japanese bunkers near the *kios-ku* in District Three. Close by is another piece of Saipan history—Saipan's first and oldest elementary school, the William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa, named after the first local superintendent of education.

Drawing tourists and curiosity-seekers to the inner sanctuary of our villages is a niche marketing strategy. It adds value and provides diversity to Saipan as a tourist destination. No longer should visitors be confined to the traditional ocean, surf, and blue sky in promoting or marketing Saipan as a tourist destination. Refocusing our effort on the cultural and historic jewels in the inner villages is exactly the type of tourism draw Jim Beighley of the Pacific Division of Duty Free Shoppers made reference to during a visit to Saipan. This type of niche marketing also serves another purpose: rehabilitating the rich historic and cultural assets in every village; educating residents and tourists about the island's rich culture and heritage; and having fuller appreciation and understanding of the island's truly unique

See SAIPAN on Next Page



Members of the 11th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council and other stakeholders meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**Letters to the Editor****‘Blue sky’ leaders**

**H**ave your readers ever noticed that their leaders on Capital Hill come up with amazing numbers to justify their ideas and proposals that are supposed to save the CNMI from total failure? Where do their numbers come from? I do not know and I have asked many people and no one seems to know. Probably only God knows. If anyone does know please publish the answers in the newspaper for all to see. Below are a few examples that I remember being used by our leaders in the press the last few years. For example:

1) At the beginning of the current governor’s administration, we heard of the wonderful potential for making shoes and peanut butter in the CNMI. Where did this and several other opportunity ideas come from? They have now disappeared. What was the source of their information, market studies? Were these the best ideas that the governor’s men could come up with, out of the clear blue sky?

2) The Legislature took on the concept of selling CUC to take it private. That was a good idea, but where did the value of \$500 million come from? I have a simple mind and for me a failing utility, with failing old equipment, debts of several hundred million dollars, poor to no management except for the governor’s declared emergency—CUC was an opportunity that could not be given away to an investor, let alone charging a half billion dollars.

3) Our leaders proposed to lease land on Tinian that would have taken away close to 5.0 percent of the total land mass to a company

that I could not even find listed on the Internet. Where do these proposals come from, out of the blue sky? The people should ask their leaders questions about such “deals.” They are too good to be true!

4) CHC was recently formed as a new corporation and given “seed money” of \$5 million to get started. That “seed” was only about 12 percent of the normal annual operational budget. Where did the numbers come from? Who determined the need and amount of the seed? Then the governor gives away prime real estate next door to the new corporation. Why? I still cannot figure that one out.

5) We have been told that casinos will generate “\$millions”; some have even said “\$billions.” Is there a detailed market study somewhere in the files of legislators that confirms these numbers? The people of Saipan do not want casinos, the tourists do not want casinos, who wants casinos and where is their data to justify their motivation? The small amount of research that was done by folks in the community indicate that casinos are a “saturated” market. The performance we see on Tinian seems to verify that point.

6) Now it is being suggested that the cure for our financial ills is to sell golf courses and hotels fee simple. Legislation has been introduced setting a minimum price of \$1,000 per square meter for Saipan golf courses and \$500 per square meter for Tinian and Rota golf courses. Doing some very quick and crude calculations I find that Coral Ocean Point, one of Saipan’s smaller courses, will sell for the bargain price of \$600 million. For investors of slightly greater courses means Kingfisher would sell for \$1.3 billion. And for the “high rollers” that we are always hearing about, LauLau would be available for \$2.6 billion. But bear in mind that the \$1,000 per square meter figure is a minimum. If we drive a hard bargain, maybe we can get even more. Of course I am being sarcastic. Even during the boom times in the 1980s, only a very few properties on

Saipan broke the \$1,000 per square meter selling price threshold. And I’m sure those investors have regretted it ever since.

7) There was also a proposal to develop Aguijan (Goat) Island into a scientific research station. As usual, this was going to generate “billions” of dollars. We were never told who the researchers would be, what they would be researching, and where they would get their billions of dollars to shower on the good people of the CNMI.

I have spent my working career as a technologist and small business owner. If I ever tried to present figures to my management or board of directors that were so preposterous as the above examples, I have no doubt I would have been fired and removed from my position. My business would have certainly failed.

Yes, we have serious financial problems in the CNMI that require drastic actions. But our leaders should stop wasting time dreaming about magic cures. There are none, and they are wasting everyone’s time throwing out solutions that are based on dreams rather than sound financial and market analysis. I believe that they think we are all stupid and will believe whatever they say. They are wrong!

**Frank Stewart**

*Capital Hill, Saipan*

**A few suggestions**

My fellow people of the CNMI, What has become of our beautiful home? We used to be a people of honor, respect and integrity; we used to be able to trust the leaders that we voted into position to lead us in the right way; the prosperous way. All of a sudden we give a second chance to a person that we can see has no other intentions other than filling his associates and his own pockets. We see the devastation that it has done to our islands yet we sit back and watch it all happen.

Look at the devastation that has happened under the Fitial administration and let us come together and find a way to make the CNMI prosperous again. How should we do this, you ask. Well here are a few suggestions:

First we should make the healthcare corporation be run by a board and not just one man, especially a hypocrite. I say he is a hypocrite because when he first took the job he himself said we needed to change the culture of how we run the hospital. Yet the first thing he does is hire his cousin as head of the Medical Supply Office and got rid of the local biomedical agency that has done a great job over there for more than 10 years and gave it to a Guam-based biomedical agency without any bidding (is this legal?).

Secondly we should cut down our Legislature and make it unicameral. But to make it a fair representation of the people we should have each person running voted by the CNMI as a whole rather than by precinct. That way we can make sure that they have the people’s interest at heart and not their own.

And lastly I suggest we have elected officials for positions that deal with the public such as the Attorney General and DPS Commissioner. This way we can know that their services are to really protect and serve the entire community and not just a select few.

Lastly I end with a quote by Dirk Kempthorne: “Government alone cannot solve the problems we deal with in our correctional facilities, treatment centers, homeless shelters and crisis centers—we need our faith-based and community partners.”

**Lester Ngeskebei**

*Koblerville, Saipan*

**Act now to save your Retirement Fund contributions: Part 2**

Dear Active Employees of the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan: The experts say that the Fund has 2-3 years left until bankruptcy.

Did you know that Judge Govendo issued a court order for the Fund to preserve \$100 million for our refunds? We understand we have a right to our money.

However, Fund regulations state that you must quit for six months (actually nine months—they don’t start counting until you get your check). For teachers that is a whole school year.

Why nine months? It’s your money. You have paid into a “mandatory” system for your entire tenure. All this time you haven’t paid into social security. When the Fund goes, you will have nothing left.

One hope: Eli Cabrera’s bill H.B. 17-226 was designed to allow active employees to transfer our money out of the Fund. The House passed it; the Senate amended it, it went back to the House—they killed it. A conference committee was formed over two months ago to find a compromise.

According to the article (“Cabrera: Most teachers want their money back,” *Marianas Variety*, March 28), the first conference committee meeting to review Eli Cabrera’s bill was held on March 27. One major problem: According to the article, only one senator showed up, Jovita Taimanao.

Active employees/voters take note: this may your last hope of seeing your money that you have paid into this system. After two months of delay, only one senator shows up? (See list below of other members included in the conference committee).

Let the conference committee hear your voice. Your vote can decide these committee members’ political future. They will be meeting soon (see members below). Act now to save your money.

Even easier, go to their website, <http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/>, click on HOUSE or SENATE then MEMBERS. Just click their names to send an email.

Call the House clerk at 664-8856 to find out when the next conference committee meeting is.

Conference Committee Reps:

**HOUSE:**

- Felicidad Ogumoru, rep.ogumorof@cnmi.leg.gov.mp
- George Camacho, rep.camachog@cnmi.leg.gov.mp
- Terisita Santos, rep.santost@cnmi.leg.gov.mp

**SENATE:**

- Jovita Taimanao, sen.taimanaoj@cnmi.leg.gov.mp
- Ralph Torres, senatorrtorres@gmail.com
- Jude Hofschneider, senatorjuhofscheider@yahoo.com

I am compiling a list of active employees email addresses, so we can stay in touch for future meetings, petition signings, etc. If you wish to be included, just email me a jburke@hotmail.com

**Mark Staal**

*As Matuis*

ter, in order to fill a niche by promoting Chamorro culture in Guam, making this authentic experience in indigenous way of life a new dimension in the tourists’ total visitor experience to the island.

Acting on the urgency to save our historic treasures and enhance the destination potential of the island while learning our history and promoting the local culture and tradition became the impetus for the local council’s community leadership in working with villagers and affected agencies develop local capacity for village-level leadership, in promoting and marketing the host culture, so that tourists may have the privilege and opportunity to experience the unique aspects of the tradition, culture and language of the indigenous people. In the process, residents not only promote their villages but also benefit from the village revitalization activities by enhancing the quality of life in the village.

Indeed, Beighley prescient warning: “Today’s travelers are spending more to accumulate experiences as opposed to material things, and that travelers’ particular passions are important factors in their destination choices”.

**SAIPAN**

*From Page 10*

culture and history.

At an appearance before the Marianas Visitors Authority monthly meeting, for example, Beighley talked about a new trend in leisure travel abroad seeking to experience (the “What I did” aspect of travel) and not wholly for shopping (the “What I bought” aspect of vacation), which Beighley dubbed ‘talk value’ tourism. Beighley underscored the value added resources of the CNMI in sharing its authentic culture.

Experiencing authentic indigenous cultures was also a topic of discussion in an interview with Hayato “Jack” Yoshino of PHR Ken Asset Management, Inc., in Guam’s *Directions* magazine, which Yoshino pointed to Guam as lacking in “cultural sightseeing” in its tourism promotional and marketing strategies. His finding led him to work with Guam’s Gef Pago (Chamorro) Inarajan Cultural Cen-

After working literally round-the-clock for a couple of years to fine-tune the site development plan that matches available funding, the Saipan council and its community partners now have a reason to breathe a sigh of relief over the construction of the third and final phase of the *kios-ku* project slated for completion and official opening this year.

The conceptualization and selection of the *kios-ku* design took untold hours of labor by its founding members and the council, because it was important for the council then as it is today that the design is one that not only captures Saipan’s political history and its underlying significance, but also one that depicts local leadership during the pre-commonwealth period up to the present time.






*To be continued tomorrow.*

*Ramon Blas Camacho is chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. (website:saipanmunicipalcouncil.blogspot.com)*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

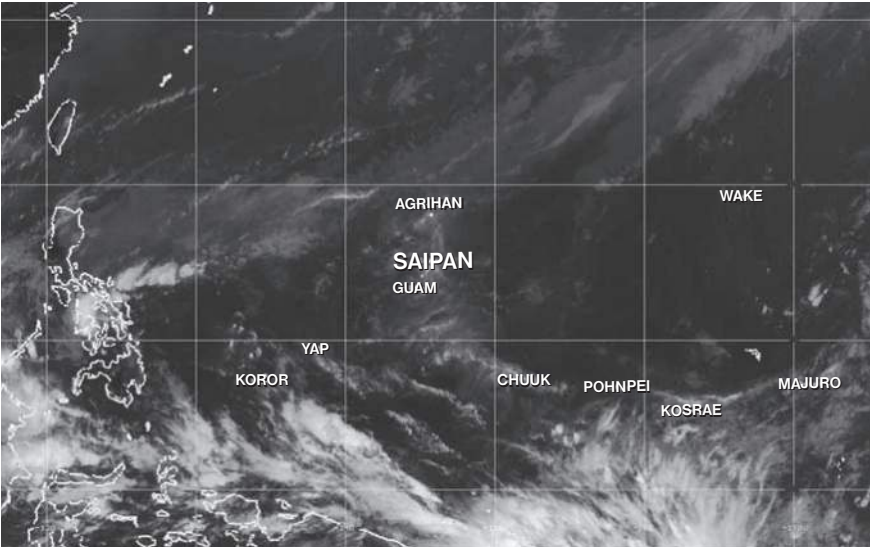
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 57
Beijing	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 37
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 68
London	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 66
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 66 ▼ 48
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 49
Paris	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 46
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 53
Rome	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 52
Salem	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 49
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 45
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 47
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 73 ▼ 54

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N158E across the far northern CNMI near Pagan at 18N146E to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A monsoon trough stretches east-southeastward from 5N130E through a circulation centered south of Pohnpei at 2N159E to end south of Kosrae at EQ162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 5N130E to 5N137E to 3N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also present closer to the circulation south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 5N from 154E to 169E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers northeast of Majuro east of a line from 6N171E to 14N176E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:36 AM	11:52 PM
Friday	11:27 AM	
Saturday	12:19 PM	12:40 AM
Sunday	1:12 PM	1:27 AM
Monday	2:07 PM	2:13 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>					<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5		C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5	
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b>					<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b>				
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5		C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5	
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>					<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>				
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP		C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP	
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6		C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6	
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7		C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6		C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6	
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>					<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily		DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7	
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b>					<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>					<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>					<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6	
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5		DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7	
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b>					<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b>				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>					<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>					<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		CO190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM	
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM		CO190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		CO192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM		CO184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau		OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		CO184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM						
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM						
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b>					<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b>				
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN		OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN		CO180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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# Business

## Justices signal deep trouble for health care law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The fate of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul was cast into deeper jeopardy Tuesday as the Supreme Court's conservative justices sharply and repeatedly questioned its core requirement that virtually every American carry insurance. The court will now take up whether any remnant of the historic law can survive if that linchpin fails.

The justices' questions in Tuesday's hearing carried deeply serious implications but were sometimes flavored with fanciful suggestions. If the government can force people to buy health insurance, justices wanted to know, can it require people to buy burial insurance? Cellphones? Broccoli?

The law, pushed to passage by Obama and congressional Democrats two years ago, would affect nearly all Americans and extend insurance coverage to 30 million people who now lack it. Republicans are strongly opposed, including the presidential contenders now campaigning for the chance to challenge Obama in November.

Audio for Tuesday's court argument can be found at: <http://apne.ws/Hft6z3>.

The court focused on whether the mandate for Americans to have insurance "is a step beyond what our cases allow," in the words of Justice Anthony Kennedy.

But Kennedy, who is often the swing vote on cases that divide the justices along ideological lines, also said he recognized the magnitude of the nation's health care problems and seemed to suggest they would require a comprehensive solution.

He and Chief Justice John Roberts emerged as the apparent pivotal votes in the court's decision. The ruling is due in June in the midst of a presidential election campaign that has focused in part on the new law.

Though many of the justices asked tough questions and made strong statements, past cases have shown that those don't necessarily translate into votes when it comes time for a decision.

Wednesday's final arguments—the third day in the unusually long series of hearings—will focus on whether the rest of the law can remain even if the insurance mandate is struck down and, separately, on the constitutionality of another provision

expanding the federal-state Medicaid program.

The insurance requirement is intended to complement two unchallenged provisions of the law that require insurers to cover people regardless of existing medical conditions and limit how much they can charge in premiums based on a person's age or health.

The law envisions that insurers will be able to accommodate older and sicker people without facing financial ruin because the insurance requirement will provide insurance companies with more premiums from healthy people to cover the increased costs of care.

The biggest issue, to which the justices returned repeatedly during two hours of arguments in a packed courtroom, was whether the government can force people to buy insurance.

"Purchase insurance in this case, something else in the next case," Roberts said.

"If the government can do this, what else can it not do?" Justice Antonin Scalia asked. He and Justice Samuel Alito appeared likely to join with Justice Clarence Thomas, the only justice to ask no questions, to vote to strike down the key provision of the overhaul. The four Democratic appointees seemed ready to vote to uphold it.

Kennedy at one point said that allowing the government mandate would "change the relationship" between the government and U.S. citizens.

"Do you not have a heavy burden of justification to show authorization under the Constitution" for the individual mandate? asked Kennedy.

At another point, however, he also acknowledged the complexity of resolving the issue of paying for America's health care needs.

"I think it is true that if most questions in life are matters of degree ... the young person who is uninsured is uniquely proximately very close to affecting the rates of insurance and the costs of providing medical care in a way that is not true in other industries. That's my concern in the case," Kennedy said.

Roberts also spoke about the uniqueness of health care, which almost everyone uses at some point.

"Everybody is in this market, so that makes it very different than the market for cars or the other hypotheticals that you came up

with, and all they're regulating is how you pay for it," Roberts said, paraphrasing the government's argument.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. sought to assure the court that the insurance mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that Obama signed into law in 2009 is a key part of the law's goal of reaching many of the more than 40 million people who don't have health insurance through their employers, don't qualify for government aid and cannot afford to buy coverage on their own.

Paul Clement, who is representing Florida and 25 other states in challenging the law, called the mandate "an unprecedented effort by Congress."

Clement, a predecessor of Verrilli's as solicitor general, said the requirement would force people, especially those who are young and healthy, to buy a product they don't want.

Michael Carvin, representing the National Federation of Independent Business in opposing the law, also pushed hard on the notion of individual freedom. When Justice Stephen Breyer asked if the federal government could not order vaccinations "if there was some terrible epidemic sweeping the United States," Carvin said no. Congress lacks the power to do so, he said.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she found the debate over health care similar to an earlier era's argument about the Social Security retirement system. How could Congress be able to compel younger workers to contribute to Social Security but be limited in its ability to address health care? she wondered.

"There's something very odd about that, that the government can take over the whole thing and we all say, oh, yes, that's fine, but if the government wants to preserve private insurers, it can't do that," she said.

Scalia and Roberts noted that the health care overhaul law would make people get insurance for things they may not need, such as heart transplants or pregnancy services. "You can't say that everybody is going to participate in substance abuse services," Roberts said.

On the other hand, Ginsburg said, "The people who don't participate in this market are making it more expensive for those who do."

## Health care showdown

Two years after being enacted, the federal health care overhaul law has divided the nation politically, pitting supporters — who champion near-universal health care coverage — against detractors who say the law amounts to government overreaching. The controversy enters what is potentially a decisive chapter when the Supreme Court hears arguments from both sides.

### Road to the court

March 23, 2010

President Barack Obama signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law after months of political debate; legislation creates new rules for the way employers, insurers and states administer health care; immediately after the

signing, 13 states led by Florida sue, claiming that a part of the law mandating that all Americans buy insurance violates the Constitution; states, which are later joined by 13 others, also claim the law coerces them to expand the Medicare program

Jan. 31, 2011

Florida federal district judge rules in favor of the states and says that because the mandate to buy insurance is unconstitutional, the entire law must be declared void; Obama administration appeals

Aug. 12, 2011

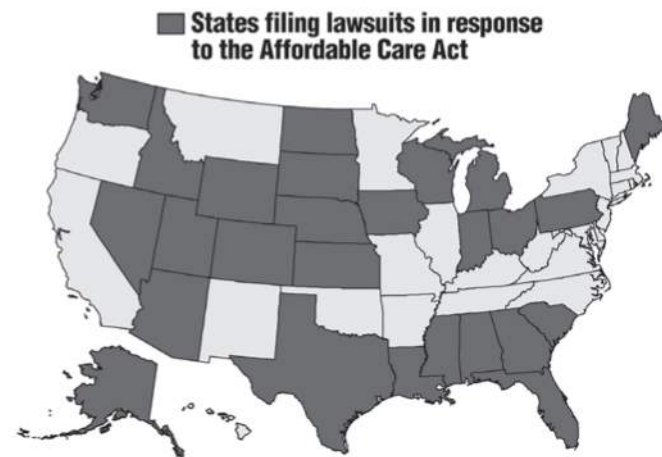
Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rules 2-1 that the insurance mandate is unconstitutional but refuses to strike down the rest of the law

Sept. 28, 2011

Both sides file appeals to the Supreme Court

Nov. 14, 2011

Supreme Court announces it will hear the case, setting up an expected ruling by the end of June



NOTE: Virginia has filed its own lawsuit against the federal government and is not part of the multistate suit headed by Florida

### The court

Justices expected to uphold the law



Stephen G. Breyer



Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Sonia Sotomayor



Elena Kagan

Expected to vote to strike down the law



Samuel A. Alito Jr.



Clarence Thomas

On the fence



Anthony M. Kennedy



John G. Roberts Jr.



Antonin Scalia

### The hearings

March 26

Is it too soon to decide?

90 minutes

Late in the legal battle, some judges said the courts should put off a decision until after 2014, when the first American pays a "penalty" on his tax return for a failure to have basic health insurance; a 19th century law known as the Anti-Injunction Act says judges should not rule

on a tax law until it has gone into effect; both the Obama administration and the challengers say the Affordable Care Act is not a tax law, and the court should rule now; the justices, however, will debate the issue

March 27

Can Congress require all Americans to have health insurance?

Two hours

Obama's lawyers say the Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce in the public interest; and the only way to guarantee that health insurance was available to all — even those who are sick — was to require that everyone have insurance, they

said; this also prevents "free riders" from sticking hospitals and others with their unpaid medical bills; lawyers for the 26 states and the National Federation of Independent Business say Congress cannot require everyone to buy a product

March 28

Morning: If the mandate is unconstitutional, what happens to the rest of the law?

90 minutes

If the justices do surgery on a law, they have to decide which parts are "severable" and which are not; White House lawyers say most of the law should be retained, even if the mandate is struck down; they agreed, however, that the rule requiring insurers to provide coverage without regard to pre-existing conditions should be repealed; challengers say the entire law should be struck down if the mandate falls

Afternoon: Is it unfair to require states to spend more on Medicaid?

60 minutes

The new law will add an estimated 16 million people to the Medicaid rolls of those receiving subsidized health care, and the federal government will pay more than 90 percent of the added cost; states object to this deal and say they cannot afford to pay even more for Medicaid; Supreme Court has never struck down a federal law that gives states money in exchange for meeting certain guidelines

# Nation

## JetBlue captain: 'They're going to take us down!'

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Screaming "They're going to take us down!" a JetBlue pilot stormed through his plane rambling about a bomb and threats from Iraq Tuesday until passengers on the Las Vegas-bound flight tackled him to the ground just outside the cockpit, passengers said.

The captain of JetBlue Airways Flight 191 from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport was taken to a hospital after suffering a "medical situation" on board that forced the co-pilot to take over the plane and land it in Amarillo, Texas, the airline said.

The unidentified pilot seemed disoriented, jittery and constantly sipped water when he first marched through the cabin, then began to rant about threats linked to Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan after crew members tried to calm him down in the back, passengers said.

"They're going to take us down. They're taking us down. They're going to take us down. Say the Lord's prayer. Say the Lord's prayer," the captain screamed, according to passenger Tony Antolino.

Josh Redick, who was sitting near the middle of the plane, said the captain seemed "irate" and was "spouting off about Afghanistan and souls and al-Qaida."

The outburst came weeks af-



Tony Antolino, of Rye, N.Y., talks on his cell phone while waiting for his baggage at McCarran International Airport, Tuesday, March 27, 2012, in Las Vegas.

ter an American Airlines flight attendant was taken off a plane for rambling about 9/11 and her fears the plane would crash. An aviation expert remembered only two or three cases in 40 years where a pilot had become mentally incapacitated during a flight.

Gabriel Schonzeit, who was sitting in the third row, said the captain said there could be a bomb on board the flight.

"He started screaming about al-Qaida and possibly a bomb

on the plane and Iraq and Iran and about how we were all going down," Schonzeit told the Amarillo Globe-News.

The captain was tackled by several passengers after he tried to re-enter the cockpit, which had been locked by the co-pilot, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

Antolino, a security executive who said he sat in the 10th row, said he and three others pinned down the captain as he ran for the

cockpit door and sat on him for about 20 minutes until the plane landed at Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport at 10 a.m.

"A group of us just jumped up instinctually and grabbed him and put him to the ground," Antolino said after arriving in Las Vegas later Tuesday. "Clearly he had an emotional or mental type of breakdown."

An off-duty airline captain who was a passenger on the flight entered the flight deck before land-

ing in Amarillo and took over the duties of the ill captain, the airline said in a statement.

The captain was taken to a local medical facility after the plane landed, the airline said without elaborating.

Shane Helton, 39, of Quinlan, Okla., said he saw emergency and security personnel coming on and off the plane as it sat on the tarmac in Amarillo.

"They pulled one guy out on a stretcher and put him in an ambulance," said Helton, who went to the airport with his fiancée to see one of her sons off as he joined the Navy.

Authorities interviewed each of the passengers once they had landed and left the plane, said 22-year-old passenger Grant Heppes, of New York City.

"I had no idea it was an employee until it really started happening," Heppes said. "I just assumed it was a passenger who flipped out."

The FBI was coordinating an investigation with the airport police, Amarillo police, the FAA and the Transportation Safety Administration, said agency spokeswoman Lydia Maese in Dallas. She declined to comment on arrests.

The flight left New York around 7 a.m. and was in the air for 3 1/2 hours before landing in Texas. The passengers boarded another plane for Las Vegas several hours later. That plane arrived in Las Vegas about two hours later.

John Cox, an aviation safety consultant and former airline pilot, said incidents in which pilots become mentally incapacitated during a flight are "pretty rare." He said he could only recall two or three other examples in the more than 40 years he has been following commercial aviation.

Airlines and the FAA strongly encourage pilots to assert themselves if they think safety is being

jeopardized, even if it means contradicting a captain's orders, Cox said. Aviation safety experts have studied several cases where first officers deferred to more experienced captains with tragic results.

Unruly pilots and crew have disrupted flights in the past.

Earlier this month, an American Airlines flight attendant took over the public-address system on a flight bound for Chicago and spoke for 15 minutes about Sept. 11 and the safety of their plane, saying "I'm not responsible for this plane crashing," several passengers said.

Passengers wrestled the flight attendant into a seat while the plane was grounded at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; the flight attendant was hospitalized.

In 2008, an Air Canada co-pilot was forcibly removed from a Toronto-to-London flight, restrained and sedated after having a mental breakdown on a flight. A flight attendant with flying experience helped the pilot safely make an emergency landing in Ireland, and none of the 146 passengers and nine crew members on board was injured.

In August 2010, JetBlue flight attendant Steven Slater pulled the emergency chute on a flight from Pittsburgh after it landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport. He went on the public-address system, swore at a passenger, grabbed a beer and slid down the tarmac.

He was sentenced to probation, counseling and substance abuse treatment for attempted criminal mischief.

The FAA is likely to review the unidentified captain's medical certificate—essentially a seal of approval that the pilot is healthy. All pilots working for scheduled airlines must have a first-class medical certificate. The certificates must be renewed every six months to a year, depending on the pilot's age.

## Trayvon Martin's parents go to Capitol Hill

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—In a packed forum on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, the parents of Trayvon Martin found support among members of Congress who turned the death of their 17-year-old's son into a rallying cry against racial profiling.

Martin's parents spoke briefly before a Democrats-only congressional panel as cameras clicked noisily in front of them. Many in the crowd, which filled the seats and lined the walls, strained to catch a glimpse of the parents whose son was shot and killed Feb. 26 in a Sanford, Fla. gated community.

"Trayvon was our son, but Trayvon is your son," Sybrina Fulton, Martin's mother, told

the panel. "A lot of people can relate to our situation and it breaks their heart like it breaks our heart."

Martin's father, Tracy Martin, thanked "everyone who is holding the legacy of Trayvon."

"Trayvon is sadly missed and we will continue to fight for justice for him," said Tracy Martin, who wore a weary look.

During the two-hour forum, the lawmakers and witnesses openly criticized the police investigation of the shooting and the failure of police to arrest the admitted shooter, George Zimmerman. Those attending the hearing applauded the couple when Deborah Ramirez, a law professor at Northeastern Uni-

versity School of Law in Boston, praised the parents' "dignity and grace in the face of this tragedy" and said they were an "inspiration to all."

Zimmerman, 28, has said he acted in self-defense. Federal and state officials are investigating.

"It is very important that we have independent eyes on this situation," said Rep. Corrine Brown, a Democrat whose district includes Sanford. "I am hoping we take this as a teachable moment. I am looking forward to how the Justice Department handles their independent investigation."

At a news conference after the forum, Martin and Fulton

renewed their calls for justice in their son's death. When asked whether he thought his son's death was a hate crime, Martin said: "Yes, I believe he was racially profiled." The family's attorney, Benjamin Crump, said racial profiling also was a factor in the way the police conducted their investigation.

Several members of Congress have called for the case to be investigated as a hate crime. Another attorney for the Martin family, Daryl D. Parks, has said that statements from Department of Justice officials in a meeting with Martin's parents make clear that getting hate crime charges is going to be a challenge.

## Michigan militia members cleared of conspiracy

**DETROIT (AP)**—A federal judge on Tuesday gutted the government's case against seven members of a Michigan militia, dismissing the most serious charges in an extraordinary defeat for federal authorities who insisted they had captured home-grown rural extremists poised for war.

U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts said the members' expressed hatred of law enforcement didn't amount to a conspiracy to rebel against the government. The FBI had se-

cretly planted an informant and an FBI agent inside the Hutaree militia starting in 2008 to collect hours of anti-government audio and video that became the cornerstone of the case.

"The court is aware that protected speech and mere words can be sufficient to show a conspiracy. In this case, however, they do not rise to that level," the judge said on the second anniversary of raids and arrests that broke up the group.

Roberts granted requests for acquittal on the most serious

charges: conspiring to commit sedition, or rebellion, against the U.S. and conspiring to use weapons of mass destruction. Other weapons crimes tied to the alleged conspiracies also were dismissed.

"The judge had a lot of guts," defense attorney William Swor said. "It would have been very easy to say, 'The heck with it,' and hand it off to the jury. But the fact is she looked at the evidence, and she looked at it very carefully."

The trial, which began Feb.

13, will resume Thursday with only a few gun charges remaining against militia leader David Stone and son Joshua Stone, both from Lenawee County, Mich. They have been in custody without bond for two years.

Prosecutors said Hutaree members were anti-government rebels who combined training and strategy sessions to prepare for a violent strike against federal law enforcement, triggered first by the slaying of a police officer.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Terror victims barred from al-Qaida member's funds

**CHICAGO (AP)**—A federal judge has barred victims of the September 2001 terror attacks from claiming money an alleged al-Qaida member invested with a Chicago futures brokerage firm. U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kennelly on Tuesday granted a government motion to reject the victims' claims to nearly \$7 million. The U.S. Department of Justice claims Abu al Tayyeb, through an associate, deposited nearly \$27 million into an account with R.J. O'Brien & Associates in 2005. But poor investment decisions caused the money to dwindle.

#### NYC co-op votes against Israeli product boycott

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A New York City co-op's proposed boycott against Israeli products to protest the Israeli government's policies toward Palestinians has been overwhelmingly defeated. Tuesday night's vote by members of the Park Slope Food Co-op in Brooklyn rejected a motion on whether to hold a referendum on the boycott, with 1,005 voting against and 653 in favor. Public Advocate and Brooklyn resident Bill de Blasio said he was proud of his neighbors for doing the right thing, calling the proposal inflammatory and destructive.

# Asia

## Obama seeks thaw with Pakistan at Seoul summit

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—President Barack Obama, closing a nuclear security summit Tuesday, sought a thaw in the diplomatic chill with Pakistan, a critical but difficult U.S. partner whose nuclear weapons and historical links to terrorism make its arsenal among the world's most vulnerable.

"There have been times—I think we should be frank—in the last several months where those relations have experienced strains," Obama told Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Their meeting broke a four-month moratorium on direct top level contacts between the United States and Pakistan. Obama and Gilani were among more than 50 leaders who met here to reaffirm controls on nuclear material that might be bought or stolen by terrorists for a bomb. Obama headed back to Washington after the summit ended.

Pakistan is a key U.S. counterterrorism partner and its cooperation is essential for drawing down the American-led war in neighboring Afghanistan. Pakistan's nuclear weapons,

developed outside the international standards endorsed by the United States, are a principal reason the U.S. struggles to promote a stable and friendly government there.

Ties with Pakistan deteriorated last year after the military raid that killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, when the United States kept Pakistani officials in the dark about the operation. Relations ruptured further when U.S. forces killed 24 Pakistani forces in November in what the United States says was a case of mistaken identity. Pakistan broke off high-level ties with the U.S. following that incident and launched a debate about new terms of engagement with the U.S., including on the sensitive issue of CIA drone strikes on targets inside Pakistani borders.

Obama said the U.S. and Pakistan are seeking a balanced partnership that respects Pakistan's sovereignty "but also respects our concerns with respect to our national security and our needs to battle terrorists who have targeted us in the past."

Gilani said he was pleased

by the reference to sovereignty. He did not address the sidelong reference to the bin Laden raid, which outraged Pakistanis more for its intrusion on Pakistani soil than for the revelation that the 9/11 mastermind was living comfortably outside the country's capital.

The U.S. is eager to resolve the Pakistan standoff and get Afghanistan war supplies moving through Pakistan again, because it has had to spend much more money shipping goods by an alternative route that runs through Central Asia.

The supply line through Pakistan will also be a critical necessity for trucking out equipment as the U.S. seeks to withdraw most of its combat forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Pakistan would also benefit from patching up relations because it needs U.S. assistance to help keep its struggling economy afloat. The U.S. has given Pakistan billions of dollars in aid since 2001 to enlist its support in fighting Islamist militants, but the relationship has been plagued by mistrust.

Obama's work in South Ko-

re focused on threats posed by North Korea and Iran, and on the ongoing bloody government crackdown in Syria. Obama used the summit to hold separate meetings with leaders of China and Russia and Turkey, players in the Iran and Syria crises. With his South Korean hosts he was especially blunt in

confronting North Korea over a planned long-range rocket launch, and vowed that "bad behavior" will not be rewarded with negotiations or aid.

Obama claimed progress in removing nuclear materials and improving security at nuclear facilities around the globe. But he warned "there are still too many

bad actors in search of these dangerous materials and these dangerous materials are still vulnerable in too many places."

U.S. intelligence agencies rate the risk of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism high on the list of global risks—just below threats posed by Iran and al-Qaida.



U.S. President Barack Obama greets Italian Premier Mario Monti, seated, at the opening plenary session at the Nuclear Security Summit at the Coex Center in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, March 27, 2012.

## Hong Kong court overturns landmark ruling on maids

**HONG KONG (AP)**—A landmark ruling that would have let foreign maids gain permanent residency in Hong Kong was overturned on appeal Wednesday in the latest twist for a case that has divided the city.

A three-member panel of High Court judges overturned a September lower court ruling that would have allowed a Filipino maid to apply to settle permanently in the southern Chinese city after living here at least seven years, as other foreign residents can.

They unanimously rejected arguments by the maid's lawyers that an immigration provision barring domestic workers from permanent residency was unconstitutional.

The case has split the city,

with some arguing that barring maids from applying for residency amounts to ethnic discrimination. But other groups have raised fears that the case would result in a massive influx of maids' family members arriving in Hong Kong, straining the densely populated city's social services and health and education systems. Supporters of the maids say those fears are overblown.

Evangeline Banao Vallejos, a Filipino woman who has worked as a maid in Hong Kong since 1986, launched the case after her bid for permanent residency was rejected.

Government lawyers argued in their appeal that the lower court's ruling was wrong because it placed limits on lawmakers' ability to decide who is

eligible to permanently settle in Hong Kong.

The judges in the High Court's Court of Appeal agreed with the government's arguments.

"A foreign domestic helper's stay in Hong Kong is for a very special, limited purpose," which is to do a job that cannot be filled by local workers, High Court Chief Justice Andrew Cheung said in his written ruling.

"Hence, their stays in Hong Kong are highly regulated so as to ensure that they are here to fulfill the special, limited purpose for which they have been allowed to come here in the first place, and no more."

The case could still go to Hong Kong's top court, the Court of Final Appeal.

be based, but a proposal to build a U.S. air base on a remote Australian island in the Indian Ocean is not yet a priority, Defense Minister Stephen Smith said Wednesday. In November, the United States and Australia announced plans to send more U.S. military aircraft and to rotate up to 2,500 Marines through the northern city of Darwin to better protect American interests across Asia.

### China rights lawyer allowed visit by family

**BEIJING (AP)**—Family members of jailed prominent lawyer Gao Zhisheng say Chinese authorities have allowed them to visit him in prison. It's the first time he's been independently confirmed alive in nearly two years. Gao Zhisheng's brother Gao Zhiyi said Wednesday that he has seen his brother but added that it was "not convenient" to say more. The dissident's wife, Geng He, says her father and Gao's brother saw him for half an hour in a remote prison in Xinjiang on Saturday. Geng is now based in California.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippine ex-governor ordered arrested for murder

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Police in the Philippines say they have arrested an aide to a former governor in the killing of a radio anchor and prominent environmentalist. They are also searching for the ex-governor himself and a local mayor whom the journalist had accused of corruption. Gerardo Ortega was fatally shot last year by a self-confessed hit man who implicated former Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, his brother who is also a mayor, and an administrator. A Palawan court issued warrants that led to the former administrator's arrest Tuesday. Police Director Samuel Pagdilao said Wednesday that authorities are still looking for the Reyes brothers.

#### Australia to welcome 250 US Marines next month

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—The first 250 U.S. Marines will arrive next month in northern Australia where a permanent joint training hub will

## Very high radiation, little water in Japan reactor

**TOKYO (AP)**—One of Japan's crippled nuclear reactors still has fatally high radiation levels and hardly any water to cool it, according to an internal examination that renews doubts about the plant's stability.

A tool equipped with a tiny video camera, a thermometer, a dosimeter and a water gauge was used to assess damage inside the No. 2 reactor's containment chamber for the second time since the tsunami swept into the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant a year ago.

The data collected Tuesday showed the damage from the disaster was so severe, the plant operator will have to develop special equipment and technology to tolerate the harsh environment and decommission the plant, a process expected to last decades.

The other two reactors that had meltdowns could be in even worse shape. The No. 2 reactor is the only one officials have been able to closely examine so far.

Tuesday's examination with an industrial endoscope detected radiation levels up to 10

times the fatal dose inside the chamber. Plant officials previously said more than half of the melted fuel has breached the core and dropped to the floor of the primary containment vessel, some of it splashing against the wall or the floor.

Particles from melted fuel have probably sent radiation levels up to a dangerously high 70 sieverts per hour inside the container, said Junichi Matsumoto, spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co. The figure far exceeds the highest level previously detected, 10 sieverts per hour, which was detected around an exhaust duct shared by No. 1 and 2 units last year.

"It's extremely high," he said, adding that an endoscope would last only 14 hours in those conditions. "We have to develop equipment that can tolerate high radiation" when locating and removing melted fuel during the decommissioning.

The probe also found that the containment vessel—a beaker-shaped container enclosing the core—had cooling water up to only 60 centimeters (2 feet)

from the bottom, far below the 10 meters (yards) estimated when the government declared the plant stable in December. The plant is continuing to pump water into the reactor.

Video footage taken by the probe showed the water inside was clear but contained dark yellow sediments, believed to be fragments of rust, paint that had been peeled off or dust.

A probe done in January failed to find the water surface and provided only images showing steam, unidentified parts and rusty metal surfaces scarred by exposure to radiation, heat and humidity. Finding the water level was important to help locate damaged areas where radioactive water is escaping.

Matsumoto said that the actual water level inside the chamber was way off the estimate, which had used data that turned out to be unreliable. But the results don't affect the plant's "cold shutdown status" because the water temperature was about 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit), indicating the melted fuel is cooled.

## World

# Syria accepts peace plan but clashes continue

**QAA, Lebanon (AP)**—Syria accepted a cease-fire drawn up by U.N. envoy Kofi Annan on Tuesday, but the diplomatic breakthrough was swiftly overshadowed by intense clashes between government soldiers and rebels that sent bullets flying into Lebanon.

Opposition members accuse President Bashar Assad of agreeing to the plan to stall for time as his troops make a renewed push to kill off bastions of dissent. And the conflict just keeps getting deadlier: The U.N. said the death toll has grown to more than 9,000, a sobering assessment of a devastating year-

old crackdown on the uprising that shows no sign of ending.

Annan's announcement that Syria had accepted his peace plan was met with deep skepticism.

"We are not sure if it's political maneuvering or a sincere act," said Louay Safi, a member of the opposition Syrian National Council. "We have no trust in the current regime. ... We have to see that they have stopped killing civilians."

Annan's plan calls for an immediate, two-hour halt in fighting every day to allow humanitarian access and medical evacuations. The plan also out-

lines a complete cease-fire, but that will take more time because Syria must first move troops and equipment out of cities and towns, government forces and the divided opposition must stop fighting, and a U.N.-supervised monitoring mission must be established.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Assad must now act.

"Given Assad's history of overpromising and under-delivering, that commitment must now be matched by immediate action," Clinton told reporters in Washington. "We will judge Assad's sincerity and serious-

ness by what he does, not by what he says. If he is ready to bring this dark chapter in Syria's history to a close, he could prove it by immediately ordering regime forces to stop firing and begin withdrawing from populated areas."

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said Assad's decision was only a first step.

"We will continue to judge the Syrian regime by its practical actions, not by its often empty words," he said.

Annan, who is an envoy for the U.N. and the Arab League, has traveled to Russia and China

to shore up support for his peace plan. Russia and China have twice shielded Assad from U.N. sanctions over his crackdown, saying the statements were unbalanced and blamed only the government. Syria is Moscow's last remaining ally in the Middle East and is a major customer for Russia's arms industry, but the Kremlin has recently shown impatience with Assad.

In Beijing on Tuesday, Annan said China has offered its "full support" for his mission.

In contrast, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad offered Assad unequivocal support.

"I'm very happy that Syrian authorities are managing the situation with confidence," the official Iranian news agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying. He echoed Assad's charge that rebels are acting out a Western conspiracy. "Americans want to dominate Syria, Lebanon, Iran and all other countries through the false slogan of defending the freedom of the (Syrian) people, and we must be alert toward their conspiracy," he said. Iran is one of Syria's last true allies.

Despite the high-level diplomacy, the situation on the ground remained as bloody as ever.



In this citizen journalism image taken on Monday March 26, 2012 and provided by Edlib News Network ENN, an anti-Syrian regime protester carries a boy on his shoulder with the Syrian revolution flag painted on his face, gesture during a demonstration in Binish town in Idlib province, northern Syria.

## Bloc puts peacekeepers on standby after Mali coup

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)**—The body representing nations in western Africa has suspended Mali and has put a peacekeeping force on standby in the most direct threat yet to the junta that seized control of this nation in a coup last week.

Alassane Ouattara, the president of Ivory Coast who is the rotating chair of the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, told reporters after an emergency meeting in the capital of Ivory Coast that Mali's democracy cannot be abandoned. A delegation of five African presidents will head to Mali within the next 48 hours to try to "restore constitutional order."

There is no immediate plan to deploy the peacekeepers who will be put on standby in the event that a military intervention is needed, said Kadre Desire Ouedraogo, the president of the ECOWAS commission. The move suggests the bloc may consider force if the mutinous soldiers who overthrew Mali's

democratically elected leader do not stand down.

"We cannot allow this country endowed with such precious democratic instruments, dating back at least two decades, to leave history by regressing. It's why Mali needs to immediately return its democratic institutions to normal," said Ouattara. "This position is nonnegotiable."

Already, the United States, the European Union and France have cut off all but essential aid, representing a loss of tens of millions of dollars. Additional sanctions from the region would be a further blow to the junta, which seized control of the nation of 15 million in the wake of a mutiny at a military camp in the capital last Wednesday.

In the chaos that ensued, soldiers stormed the presidential palace and drove into hiding President Amadou Toumani Toure, who was due to step down next month. In a matter of hours, they erased two decades of democratic rule.

Besides the threat of military intervention, Mali's neighbors could suffocate the nation financially. Many of the 15 nations represented on the regional bloc share the same currency, and they could together decide to cut off Mali's supply of cash. Also if nearby Ivory Coast were to shut its border, landlocked Mali, a nation twice the size of Texas spanning over an expanse of scrubland, verdant hills and desert dunes, would run out of gasoline, which is trucked in from Ivorian refineries.

The coup took the region and the world by surprise, because Mali has long been held up as one of the few established democracies in the troubled western corner of the continent. Late Tuesday on state television, the newscaster announced that Mali would soon be under a new constitution, indicating the putschists are moving forward with plans to create a new government, and not restoring the nation's previous democratic order.

## Pope wraps Cuba visit with Mass, Fidel meeting

**HAVANA, Cuba (AP)**—Pope Benedict XVI wraps up his visit to Cuba on Wednesday with an open-air Mass in the shrine of the Cuban revolution, hoping to revive the Catholic faith in this communist-run country. His other appointment promises a far more tantalizing climax: a meeting with Fidel Castro.

The former Cuban leader announced late Tuesday that he would happily meet with Benedict, saying he was asking for just a "few minutes of his very busy time" in Havana.

The Vatican had already said Benedict was available, so the confirmation from Castro was all that was needed to seal the appointment and end weeks of speculation as to whether Castro would repeat the meeting he held with Pope John Paul II during his historic 1998 visit.

"I will happily greet His Excellency Pope Benedict XVI as I did John Paul II, a man for whom contact with children and the humble raised feelings of affection," Castro wrote. "That's why I decided to ask for a few minutes of his very busy time when I heard from the mouth of our foreign minister, Bruno Rodriguez, that he would be agreeable."

## Final count: Ex-army chief to lead Israel's Kadima

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Final results released Wednesday in the leadership race for Israel's largest political party give a former defense and military chief a resounding victory over the incumbent, a former lead negotiator with the Palestinians.

Shaul Mofaz won 62 percent of the votes, trouncing Tzipi Livni, who took 37 percent. Going into Tuesday's race, Mofaz spoke confidently of replacing Benjamin Netanyahu when Israelis next go to national elections, currently scheduled for October 2013.

Polls show that would be an uphill battle and that Kadima, currently the largest faction in parliament, is losing support to the centrist Labor Party and the dovish Meretz. It would also be

The audience and Benedict's Mass in Revolution Plaza come 14 years after John Paul preached on the same spot before hundreds of thousands of people, Fidel among them. Then, an image of Jesus Christ was displayed opposite the plaza's iconic image of revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara, a remarkable development for a country that had been officially atheist until 1992.

This time around, a huge poster of Cuba's patron saint, the Virgin of Charity of Cobre, covered the facade of one of the buildings facing the plaza near Che. The icon has been the spiritual focus of Benedict's three-day visit, timed to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the appearance of the diminutive statue.

Benedict visited the statue in a sanctuary near the eastern city of Santiago on Tuesday morning and prayed to her for greater freedom and renewal for all Cubans—another gentle nudge to the government to continue opening itself up to greater reforms.

"I have entrusted to the Mother of God the future of your country, advancing along the ways of renewal and hope,

for the greater good of all Cubans," the pope said. "I have also prayed to the Virgin for the needs of those who suffer, of those who are deprived of freedom, those who are separated from their loved ones or who are undergoing times of difficulty."

It wasn't long before a top official in Havana responded: "In Cuba, there will not be political reform," said Marino Murillo, Cuba's economic czar and a vice president.

Benedict had begun his trip to Mexico and Cuba by asserting that Marxism as it was originally conceived is irrelevant for today's reality. Upon arriving on Cuban soil, however, he softened the message that clearly irritated his hosts, pressing gently instead for the Roman Catholic Church to play a greater role in Cuban life and for Cuba's people to enjoy greater freedoms.

The Vatican spokesman said the Holy See didn't take Murillo's comments as a rebuff to Benedict's call, noting that the pope isn't a political leader who can change laws or political systems. But he said Benedict does have some concrete hopes for the visit.

expected to lose seats to television personality Yair Lapid, who has not yet formed a political party.

Mofaz is best known for tough tactics he adopted as military chief and defense minister during the Palestinian uprising of the last decade. Four years ago, he briefly rattled global oil markets by saying Israel would attack Iran as a last resort if Tehran didn't abandon its suspected nuclear weapons program.

But in recent years, he has adopted a more statesmanlike approach, proposing the immediate establishment of a provisional Palestinian state and addressing socio-economic issues and women's rights.

Livni, who just a few years ago was among the country's

most popular politicians and who routinely shows up on lists of the world's most influential women, has faced heavy criticism for what is widely seen as an ineffective term as opposition leader.

Kadima was founded in November 2005 by then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who defected from the Likud Party with many of its top officials, including Livni and Mofaz, in an effort to move forward more boldly on peacemaking than some party members wanted.

Sharon suffered an incapacitating stroke shortly after that, and though peacemaking resumed under his successor, Ehud Olmert, it stalled at the end of Olmert's term and remains moribund.

# Focus

**P**ARIS (AP)—Mohamed Merah grew up in one of the toughest housing projects of Toulouse, with his mother, two brothers and two sisters. At age 5, his parents split up—and he took that hard. As a youth he turned to petty crime, landing in prison twice.

How the young man described by one top official as a “little failure” went on to carry out France’s biggest terror spree since the mid-1990s is provoking anguished questions in one of the West’s most-seasoned terrorism-fighting nations.

Merah’s weeklong motorcycle shooting rampage killed three French paratroopers, three Jewish schoolchildren and a rabbi, horrifying France and raising fears that al-Qaida had struck again in Europe. The 23-year-old himself bragged of affiliation to the terror network, but officials say no evidence has turned up of such ties.

In some ways, Merah came across as an ordinary, if troubled, youth.

A one-time auto body shop worker, Merah liked cars and motorcycles—and enjoyed spinning out in vacant-lot “rodeos” with any car that he got his hands on, said a French official close to the investigation. Merah partied and was seen dancing at a nightclub days before his first suspected shooting, on March 11.

Behind the run-of-the-mill image hid “a second personality,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the case.

Bernard Squarcini, the head of the French police counterterrorism agency, told Le Monde newspaper that Merah had shown “psychiatric issues” in the past that may have contributed to his rampage.

What tipped the balance, Merah’s former lawyer said, was his anger over what he saw as an unjust prison sentence and a failed effort to join the military.

“That laid the groundwork from which he threw himself into this religious fanaticism, in a spirit of vengeance” against the French state, lawyer Christian Etelin said.

While Merah enjoyed nightlife, the Frenchman of Algerian descent also moved in a crowd of ultraconservative Muslims. During the police standoff that ended Thursday with him being shot dead, Merah said he’d grown more radical in prison, often reading the Quran alone.

Unlike his fellow Salafis, however, Merah was not considered much of a thinker and displayed few outward signs of religious extremism, officials say.

“He was seen more as a little failure from the projects,” Ange Mancini, President Nicolas Sarkozy’s top intelligence adviser, told France-24 TV on Friday.

Sarkozy told French radio that Merah went “from the most ordinary criminal delinquency, starting as a minor, to the most brutal terrorism with no warning, with no transition.”

In seeking possible accomplices, authorities have focused on Merah’s older brother, 30-year-old Abdelkader Merah, who is in custody and was handed preliminary charges for complicity in murder and terrorism Sunday for allegedly helping hatch the plot—claims the brother denies, according to his defense lawyer.

The older Merah reportedly became



This undated and unlocated frame grab provided Wednesday, March 21, 2012, by French TV station France 2 shows the suspect in the killing of three paratroopers, three children, and a rabbi in recent days, Mohamed Merah.

## French gunman's JOURNEY TO TERROR

By JAMEY KEATEN  
Associated Press

Mohamed’s mentor after their father returned to Algeria and the children went in and out of foster care.

Abdelkader, too, was known to authorities: He was implicated but never charged in an investigation in 2007 of a recruiting network for jihadists to fight in Iraq. In recent years, he traveled often to Egypt—for sometimes months at a time—to attend Quranic schools.

French police had known about Mohamed Merah since at least 2005—when he was convicted as a minor for receiving stolen property. It was the first of what would be a total of 15 convictions: eight while a juvenile, and seven for misdemeanors as an adult, said Elisabeth Allannic, a spokeswoman with the Paris prosecutors office. He was sent to prison for 18 months for aggravated theft in January 2008, she said.

But France’s highly reputed counterterrorism officials first learned about him in November 2010, when he turned up in southern Afghanistan—caught at a random roadway checkpoint by Afghan police and handed over to the U.S. military, which alerted French military intelligence.

That came at the tail end of a meandering road trip across the Middle East—Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, even Israel—before he traveled to Egypt, where he met up with his brother in Cairo, the French official told The AP.

Merah then spent three weeks in Tajikistan before crossing over into Afghanistan. He was arrested in the southern city of Kandahar on Nov.



Soldiers carry the coffin of one of the victims before a ceremony to pay homage to the three soldiers killed by the suspected French gunman Mohamed Merah, claiming al-Qaida links, and also suspected in the killings of three Jewish children and a rabbi, Wednesday, March 21, 2012 in Montauban, southwestern France. The victims were Imad Ibn-Ziaten, 30, a paratrooper in the 1st Airborne Transportation Regiment based in Toulouse; Abel Chennouf, 25, who served in the 17th paratrooper combat engineering regiment based in Montauban; and Mohamed Legouade, 26, the second paratrooper killed in the same shooting.

22, 2010, nine days after entering Afghanistan, and was flown to Kabul by U.S. forces.

A European intelligence official told The Associated Press that Merah was questioned by Afghan intelligence, which then told the French Embassy in Kabul about him—but French authorities didn’t pick him up. Merah flew home early the next month, of his own accord. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

After his arrest in Afghanistan, the

United States quickly put Merah on its no-fly list. But French authorities did not, opting instead to put him under police surveillance after he returned home to southern France.

Under watch in the spring of 2011, Merah drew little suspicion, the French official close to the investigation told the AP. He partied, didn’t go often to the mosque, was cordial with his neighbors and showed no violent inclinations.

By August 2011, with French police believing that he was not a threat, he

was off again—to Lahore, Pakistan. His mother had prodded him to go there to look for a wife, the French official said.

During that trip, French authorities went to his home in Toulouse and posted a summons for him to report in so they could question him about his earlier trip.

“Then he called us,” the official said. “He must have been alerted by someone in his family ... He was very polite, saying, ‘I’m busy, but I will call you when I get back.’”

While on his trip, he caught Hepatitis A and returned to France in October 2011 for treatment. This time, Merah called police from Purpan hospital in Toulouse to again delay the appointment. When it finally took place in November, Merah brought along a USB key with photos he had taken, telling his interrogators that his trip was for tourism.

“We weren’t fooled,” the French official told The AP. After further analysis, Merah was placed on a “wanted persons file”—which would alert authorities any time in the future that he tried to use his passport to travel.

Merah, who generally worked odd jobs for a month or so at a time, at one point appeared to have considered a military career. He spent one night in July 2010 at a French Foreign Legion recruitment center in Toulouse—as part of a standard information session, but left the next morning without an explanation, French army spokesman Col. Bruno Lafitte said.

Merah told police he received individualized training in Pakistan, according to Squarcini. He claimed to investigators that he was trained in Pakistan’s restive Waziristan region.

But French officials have so far dismissed this theory.

“For the moment, nothing shows he was at training camps in Pakistan. Nothing,” said Mancini, alluding to official “diverse sources” who keep watch on attendees of the Pakistani camps.

Merah’s firearms—including a Colt .45 and an automatic Sten pistol—were unsophisticated and not uncommon in French housing projects. Prosecutors said that during the standoff, he claimed to have obtained (EURO)20,000 worth of weapons by theft—which investigators doubt.

“The weapons he had were obsolete for a real jihadist,” said Mancini. “Colt .45s—these weapons date from Prohibition era in the United States ... A Sten? Those weapons were parachuted in by the English during World War II! A mini-Uzi? It’s a relatively old style of weapon.”

In the ethnically mixed Des Izards project where Merah grew up, residents said tensions grew palpably when they learned that the gunman was one of their own. A woman in an Islamic face veil recalled Merah driving past on his scooter, music blasting. Georges Baldachno, living there since 1964, lamented, “Now there is delinquency everywhere.” A group of young men threw a rock to scare reporters away.

# Environment

## Interior sets onshore wind energy guidelines

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior has released guidelines designed to help wind energy project developers avoid and minimize impacts of land-based wind projects on wildlife and their habitats. The voluntary guidelines will help shape the smart siting, design, and operation of the nation's growing wind energy economy.

"Wind energy is a key part of the Obama Administration's sustained, all-of-the-above approach to American energy. We're committed to working with developers to ensure that wind energy projects are built in the right places and operated in the right way," said Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. "These

### » Voluntary measures will help wind energy developers minimize impacts on wildlife

voluntary guidelines have been developed through an intensive public process with significant help from the wind energy industry, state agencies, and wildlife conservation groups and are designed to achieve the best outcome for wildlife and wind energy development."

Using a tiered approach, the guidelines provide a structured, scientific process for developers, federal and state agencies, and tribes to identify sites with low risk to wildlife, and to help them assess, mitigate, and monitor any adverse effects of wind energy projects on wildlife and their habitats. The voluntary guidelines, which take effect

today, are designed to be used for all utility-scale, community-scale, and distributed land-based wind energy projects on both private and public lands.

"The guidelines outline a consistent and predictable approach to wind energy development while also providing flexibility to developers in recognition of the unique circumstances of each project. These guidelines reflect an enormous amount of work and care by the Fish and Wildlife Service and dozens of experts from all sides of the wind energy issue," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "We've spent years getting them right, and I believe they will help guide the responsible development of wind energy in America for decades to come."

The voluntary guidelines released today replace voluntary interim guidelines issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003. They are the result of a five-year process that included multiple opportunities for public review and comment.

The guidelines were also informed by the Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee, established in 2007 and comprised of a diversity of stakeholders, including federal and state agencies, tribes, the wind energy industry and conservation organizations. After two years of deliberations, the committee submitted their final recommendations to the Secretary in March 2010. The Fish and Wildlife Service used the recommendations as a basis to develop their draft Land-Based Wind Energy Guidelines, announced in February 2011. After receiving more than 30,000 comments on the draft guide-

sible to see a bike clearly during these times. You'll also want to invest in a bike lock.

#### 4) RESEARCH YOUR ROUTE

Your usual way of getting someplace by car may not be the safest way to go by bike. A higher level of comfort will only come with time and experience so if you are new to commuting by bike, plan your route carefully. Goggle maps offer a fantastic tool for this that factors in your mode of transportation and will filter out bike unfriendly roads.

#### 5) STASH YOUR STUFF

You'll also need some way to carry your stuff. Backpacks or messenger bags are good options especially ones with a waist strap. You could also use a basket or rear racks. You might be surprised to see how much you can actually transport with the right equipment.

#### 6) USE A HELMET

Make sure your helmet fits properly. It should be snug but comfortable and the bottom edge of the helmet should be two finger widths above your eyebrow. And remember, ones with more vents are better in the summer and less vents will make you more comfortable in winter.

#### 7) STAY STRONG

At some point, somebody is going to tell you that you are crazy for using a bike to get around. Keep in mind that they are the ones paying those shocking gas prices. You, on the other hand, are Doing Your Part by reducing your dependence on foreign oil and contributing less pollution to our planet.

*Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of "Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living" available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to [terri@doyourpart.com](mailto:terri@doyourpart.com).*

### ON THE NET

To download a copy of the final guidelines and for other background information on the Fish and Wildlife Service's role in wind energy development: <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>



The Flat Ridge wind farm in northern Barber County, as seen March 6, 2012.

lines, the Fish and Wildlife Service decided to reconvene the advisory committee for additional public meetings in order to develop the most effective final guidelines.

"We know America needs

more renewable energy and wind power is a key player in that mix. But conservationists can't have it both ways: we can't say we need renewable energy and then say there's nowhere safe to put the wind farms,"

said David Yarnold, president & CEO of Audubon. "By collaborating with conservationists instead of slugging it out, the wind power industry gains vital support to expand and create jobs, and wildlife gets the protection crucial for survival. These federal guidelines are a game-changer and big win for both wildlife and clean energy."

"The country needs more wind energy for its American manufacturing and construction jobs, environmental benefits, and national energy security. These guidelines set the highest standard, either voluntary or mandatory, of wildlife protection for any industry," said Denise Bode, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association. "It is our hope that in conjunction with rapid training and sensible implementation, the guidelines will promote improved siting practices and increased wildlife protection that in turn will foster the continued rapid growth of wind energy across the nation."

The voluntary guidelines will also help developers identify additional steps, review processes and permits that may be needed to ensure compliance with federal laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. If the project may affect one or more species protected by the ESA or their habitat, for example, developers may need to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan and apply for an Incidental Take Permit.

To download a copy of the final guidelines and for other background information on the Fish and Wildlife Service's role in wind energy development, visit <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>. (DOI)

### DO YOUR PART

## Top 7 secrets to commuting by bike

By TERRI BENNETT  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Do you wince when you fill up your gas tank? Don't expect the pain at the pump to end anytime soon. That makes it the right time to grab your bike and use it to get to work and run errands. You'll save money and Do Your Part for the planet at the same time. To make sure you have everything you need to get started, I'm collaborating with Ellen Stoune, former president of the Rock Hill Bicycle Club in South Carolina to share our "Top 7 Secrets to Commuting by Bike."

#### 1) RIDE THE RIGHT BIKE

The right bike will make all the difference in the world. There are simple mountain bikes or ones made with commuting in mind. You can find ones that will have everything from chain guards to fenders to hardwired lights. There are even bikes with skirt guards so you can wear your favorite dress or skirt without worry.

#### 2) RIDE RESPONSIBLY

In places where there are no designated bike lanes, position yourself as far to the right as is practical. And, be on the watch for the so-called "door zone" with cars parked on the street. That's the space where drivers open up their doors that can cause serious injury to cyclists. Try not to ride on sidewalks that are for pedestrians or on the left side of the street where drivers may not see you.

#### 3) SELECT SAFETY ACCESSORIES

A bike mirror mounted on your left handlebar will be your best friend. You can use it to scan traffic behind you. Another good idea is a set of lights for the front and rear. If you're going to be riding early in the morning, at dusk or at night, lights are mandatory as it is almost impos-

## Get started on your container garden

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM  
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

A container garden makes good sense.

Pots of plants are practical because you control the soil, a good thing if your soil is bad. You also eliminate critters like bunnies and voles from eating your plants.

Container gardens can be as simple as geraniums in single pots lined on the front porch or as complex as an entire vegetable, herb or flower garden.

Getting your container garden started is as easy as 1, 2, 3...here's how, according to Home Depot/homedepot.com garden experts:

First things first—gather as many pots as you want to use just be sure that they can drain water and hold enough soil for

the plant or plants you want to grow.

Next, decide what exactly you want to plant. Pick flowers with beautiful, colorful blooms or plants with interesting sculptural shapes and textures. The sky's the limit so have fun with it!

Then it's time to select the best potting mix for your choice. Keep in mind that different mixes work best for different plants and flowers. You can even plant vegetables.

After planting, place your containers near a window, water and fertilize regularly and enjoy! You may not want to move the pots outdoors until warm weather stabilizes.

Transport your garden outside when the weather warms up by simply moving the con-



Gerbera daisies thrive in a squared-off, 10-inch planter. HOME DEPOT/HOMEDEPOT.COM/MCT

tainers. Move your garden permanently by replanting your container plants and flowers.

Container gardening is also a great option for apartment dwellers.

## Life & Style

# Photo albums related to Nazi art theft unveiled

**DALLAS (AP)**—Among the items U.S. soldiers seized from Adolf Hitler's Bavarian Alps hideaway in the closing days of World War II were albums meticulously documenting an often forgotten Nazi crime—the massive pillaging of artwork and other cultural items as German troops marched through Europe.

Two of those albums—one filled with photographs of works of art, the other with snapshots of furniture—were donated Tuesday to the U.S. National Archives, which now has custody of 43 albums in a set of what historians believe could be as high as 100.

Robert M. Edsel, founder and president of the Dallas-based Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, which announced the discovery of the two new albums at a news conference, called them “key pieces of evidence taken from a crime scene that were prized possessions of Adolf Hitler.”

Relatives of the two soldiers who took the albums contacted the foundation, which has previously donated two other albums in the series to the National Archives. They had read stories in the media about foundation's mission, which includes continuing the work of the Monuments Men, who helped Allied forces protect cultural treasures during World War II and helped return stolen items after the war.

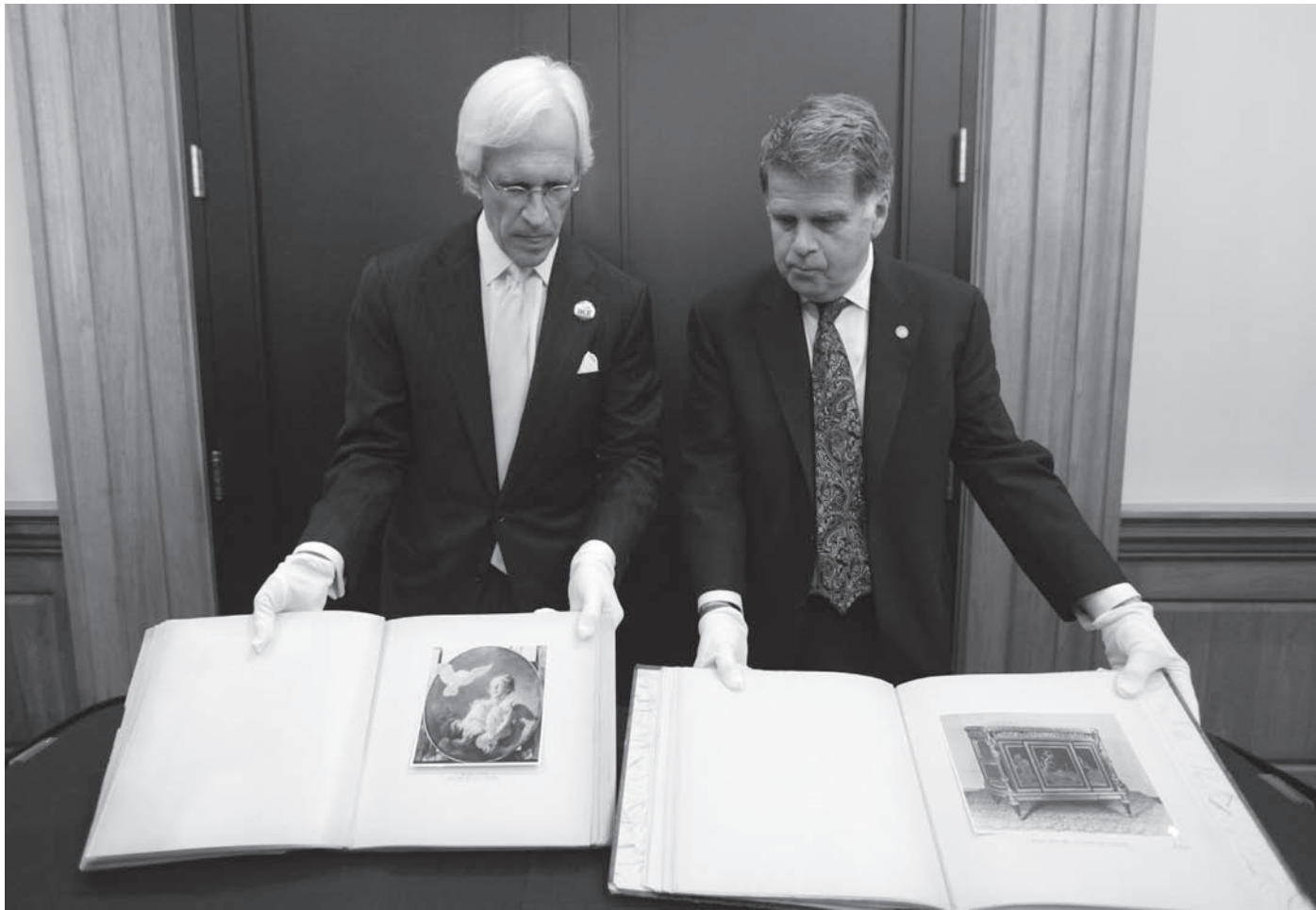
“We can only hope for more discoveries in the years to come,” U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero said at the news conference.

The Nazi agency Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, or ERR, created the series of albums to document the items taken from across Europe. Of the 43 albums identified so far, 39 were discovered in May 1945 at Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. They were then used as evidence at the Nuremberg trials to document the Nazi looting before eventually going to the National Archives.

In 2007, the Monuments Men donated two additional albums after they were found in the attic of the family of a U.S. soldier, though the foundation has retained possession of one of those for the last few years as a teaching tool.

“I think there's a lot more of them out there,” said Edsel, who noted that the albums were used as “shopping catalogs” for Hitler to select works of art for various museums.

Of the newly discovered albums, one contains photographs of 69 paintings that were taken as early as 1940. Most of those paintings appear to have been properly restituted, but an ERR



David S. Ferriero, archivist of the United States, right, and Robert M. Edsel, founder and president of Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art show two newly discovered albums containing photographs of art works and furniture stolen by the Nazis during World War II after they were unveiled at a news conference in the Meadows Museum at SMU in Dallas, Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2012.

## Brains! London exhibition looks inside our skulls

By JILL LAWLESS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LONDON (AP)**—Like zombies, human beings can't get enough of brains.

A new London exhibition explores that fascination, displaying everything from mummified Egyptian cerebral matter to slices of Albert Einstein's brain in the story of our quest to understand what's inside our skulls.

The show at London's Wellcome Collection asks not what brains have done for us but what, in the name of science, we have done to brains.

“Brains have been prepared and weighed and sliced and generally (messed) about with,” Ken Arnold, the museum's head of public programs, said Tuesday.

“This exhibition is, almost contrarily, about the brain, rather than the mind,” he said. “An exhibition about what the brain is, rather than what the brain does.”

The gray mass inside our skulls is our exceptional organ, the one that can't be transplanted, the seat of intellect and personality. It is part of us, but it's also the essence of us. Which is why brains fascinate—and why seeing one in a jar delivers a special shudder.

There are plenty of such shocks in “Brains: The Mind as Matter,” a show that puts the brain under a microscope—



Wellcome Trust employee Zoe Middleton poses for the media by a work entitled 'My Soul' by artist Katherine Dawson, that is a laser etched in lead crystal glass of the artist's own MRI scan, at an exhibition call 'Brains -The Mind as Matter' at the Wellcome Collection in London, Tuesday, March, 27, 2012.

sometimes literally.

The brain has fascinated and baffled scientists for centuries, ever since medieval Christian and Islamic scholars recognized it as the repository of thought and memory. The

exhibition, which opens Thursday and runs to June 17, features mummified, desiccated, galvanized and pickled brains—testament to our sometimes misguided attempts at scientific understanding.

Generations of scientists have extracted and measured brains, to see if they could find the secret of genius—or evil—in the organ's size and texture.

The exhibition includes a range of celebrity brains, including those of 19th-century murderer William Burke and

women's suffrage pioneer Helen Gardiner. There's also the left lobe of mathematician Charles Babbage, and two slides carrying pieces of Einstein's brain, kept by a pathologist and studied by scientists

ever since for clues to his genius.

That secret remains elusive. Scientists no longer believe, as they did in the 19th century, that character can be read in the contours of the skull, or that smarter people have bigger brains. (Einstein's is not particularly large.)

The discovery of neurons—the cells that transmit information from the brain to the body—has led to huge advances in understanding how the brain works.

Yet the brain remains “a

complex and inscrutable substance,” said the show's curator, Marius Kwent.

And despite huge medical advances, brain surgery remains a brutal business, in some ways little changed since our ancestors bored holes in skulls with flint tools thousands of years ago. One such neatly drilled Bronze Age skull is on display in the London show.

“It's basically down to drilling and cutting and sawing,” said Kwent.

The exhibition drives that point home, viscerally, with an assortment of skull saws, drills and other items from the brain surgeon's toolbox, as well as a graphic 1930s instructional film on how to perform a craniotomy.

The Wellcome Collection is a cross between medical museum and art gallery, and the exhibits on display range from the clinical to the artistic.

The medical specimens are interspersed with artworks that deal with the brain, including Annie Cattrell's silvered bronze casts of the inside of a skull and Katharine Dowson's delicate, feathery images based on cerebral angiograms.

There are constant reminders that brains have long been collectible, for interests of science or curiosity. Kwent said the show is, in part, an exploration “of the ethics and politics and even the economy of the giving and taking of brains.”

database indicates four were not. The other newly found album contains photographs of 41 pieces of furniture, mostly taken from the Rothschild family.

Edsel said that by 1951, the Monuments Men had processed and returned more than 5 million stolen objects.

“It was the greatest treasure hunt in history—one that continues to this day,” Edsel said.

Greg Bradsher, senior archivist at the National Archives, said the recently discovered albums are a reminder of the massive amounts of property Hitler took and a reminder that “to this day, hundreds of thousands” of items are not with their rightful owners.

The albums are also “a reminder that a lot of soldiers in World War II brought souvenirs home—some of them were helmets, bayonets, medals, which are really bounty of war—but others picked up books, albums, other cultural property,” Bradsher said.

One of the newly discovered albums, known as album 15, was taken by Pfc. Yerke Zane Larson, who served in the 501st Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, the “Screaming Eagles.” Cpl. Albert Lorenzetti, who served in the 989th Field Artillery Battalion, took the other album—known as album 7—the same week, also from Hitler's home, called the Berghof. Both are now deceased.

“When you consider what these soldiers went through, slogging their way through the loss of buddies, through horrible weather conditions, fighting, combat, etc., and then this momentous occasion when they had a chance to take a deep breath, go up there to the Berghof for no reason than to be able to tell their families and future generations, ‘I stood where Hitler's home was,’” Edsel said. “That's what motivated the taking of these things.”

Larson's daughter, Sandra Runde of Rapid City, S.D., said that she can remember her father taking the album out once or twice when she was growing up. Runde said her father, who returned from the war to take a job sweeping the floors at a restaurant supply company before eventually buying it and working there till he was 80, didn't talk about the war and didn't elaborate on the album beyond saying that it was from Hitler's home.

“It was just tucked away somewhere,” Runde said.

Runde said her father, who died on his 87th birthday in 2009, gave the album to her about five years before he died. She said she's happy that it's now somewhere safe where people can appreciate it.

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### The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson  
 Science fiction • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Inspired by the best-selling young-adult novel by author Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* tells the dark tale of a 16-year-old girl named Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), who is selected to compete in a vicious televised tournament in which 24 teenagers from a post-apocalyptic society fight to the death for the entertainment of the masses. Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth co-star.

## ★ ★ ★



### 21 Jump Street

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum  
 Comedy, Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

The television series that shot Johnny Depp to stardom makes the leap to the big screen in this reboot starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum) have the kind of faces that could let them pass for teenagers. Eager to prove themselves as effective policemen, the pair join the Jump Street program and go undercover to investigate a high-school drug ring. Now, the only thing more daunting than the prospect of taking on violent adolescent dope slingers is the possibility of experiencing the torture of their teenage years all over again. Ice Cube, Brie Larson, and Rob Riggle co-star.



### The Vow

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum  
 Drama • Rated PG 13



### John Carter

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins  
 Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13



### Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift  
 Children's/Family • Rated PG



### Act of Valor

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez  
 Adventure, Action • Rated R



### Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine  
 Adventure • Rated PG

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# Harry Potter adventures go on sale in e-book form

LONDON (AP)—At last, Harry Potter's adventures are available electronically.

The seven novels about J.K. Rowling's boy wizard are for sale as e-books and audio books on the author's Pottermore website, the site's creators announced Tuesday.

The books are currently available in English, in U.S. and U.K. editions, with the first three titles priced at \$7.99 or 4.99 British pounds for e-books and \$29.99 or

17.99 pounds for audio versions.

The site says French, Italian, German and Spanish editions will follow in the coming weeks.

The books are available only through the website, which says they are compatible with major electronic readers, including Amazon's Kindle, Sony's Reader and Barnes & Noble's Nook, as well as with tablets, mobile phones, PCs and e-readers on Google's Play.

The Harry Potter novels have sold 450 million copies, but Rowling for years resisted making the books available in digital form.

She announced last year that Potter e-books would be sold through the Pottermore site, an interactive portal into Harry's magical world.

The full site, which combines elements of virtual encyclopedia, computer games, social network and online store, is set to

open in early April.

Its launch, originally announced for October, was delayed after testing with a limited number of users showed changes were needed.

Rowling's final Potter novel, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," was published in 2007. The author announced last month that she is working on a novel for adults, whose title and release date have not been disclosed.

# June Ambrose: The woman behind the celebrity

NEW YORK (AP)—Stylist June Ambrose helped remake the image of Luther Vandross and Mariah Carey as they were preparing major comebacks, but there's one icon she didn't get to remake—Whitney Houston.

Working with Houston wasn't a pipe dream for Ambrose. With the singer readying a return to the spotlight with the upcoming movie, "Sparkle," and new music, it was a real possibility. But she died Feb. 11 on the eve of the Grammys at 48 of an accidental drowning, with heart disease and cocaine use as contributing factors.

"There were talks about it," Ambrose said in an interview Monday. "I really wanted to do Whitney Houston's comeback. ... I just felt like Whitney and I ... would have been great together."

Ambrose has already proven she's great with other A-listers: Her client list includes Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, Jay-Z, Missy Elliott and Zoe Saldana, and she also was a stylist for "The X-Factor."

"Jay-Z's been a longtime client and a friend. What I love about Jay is that he has such a natural swagger and charisma, and he's just as passionate about his music as I am my art, and we have such a mutual respect for what one another does," Ambrose said. "Mary J. Blige, love working with her. ... Alicia Keys, too, especially when she was pregnant. It was such a pure, personal time."

On her new VH1 show, "Styled by June," the Antigua native helps struggling celebrities look their best, including actress and one-time fashionista Mischa Barton, female rappers Trina and Da Brat, and reality TV star and singer Aubrey O'Day. The show airs on Mondays (9:30 p.m. EDT).

**The Associated Press: Who else would you like to style?**

Ambrose: I like broken star-



In a March 26, 2012 photo, celebrity stylist June Ambrose poses for a portrait in New York.

lets. I love to fix things. ... I would love to get like a Courtney Love. Lindsay Lohan I'd be brilliant with.

**AP: What's it like getting celebrities to trust you when taking them out of their comfort zone?**

Ambrose: Celebrities naturally are quite defensive by nature. They have to protect themselves, they're constantly being photographed and judged, and social media controls so much of how they feel about themselves. You know, they're reading the blogs, the tabloids, and it starts to kind of eat away at their spirit and their confidence. ... I have to strip them down and build them back up, and the reason why I have to strip them down is I need them to see themselves, not the person they want to be, but the person

that they are. Face that person, accept that person and then we deal with the alter ego.

**AP: When were you bitten by the fashion bug?**

Ambrose: I was smitten and bitten by fashion from inception. When I came out of my mother's womb I was like, "Where are my designer diapers?" I used to cut up my grandmother's curtains and designer dresses for my Barbie dolls. In preschool, I was like, "I want to put on a fashion show," and I got all the parents together and I produced a fashion show. I was like 7 years old, like in kindergarten doing fashion shows.

**AP: What is the most common mistake people make when putting together an outfit?**

Ambrose: Fit is a factor. When you think about the '20s

and the '40s (and) how structured fashion was: That's why I say it's the return of the lady and the dandy because people are starting to pay a lot more attention to fit. When a guy invests in a sports jacket, have it tailored if it's not something that was couture to your body. ... Women, wear your foundation undergarments, even if you're skinny. Having the right foundation pieces, it helps you with your core, it helps you with that juxtaposition. It's like wearing a petticoat. ... And people also feel like they need to over-accessorize. You have to balance your bold. ... Head-to-toe leopard isn't necessary unless it's a Halloween soiree you're going to.

**AP: What trends will we see this spring and fall?**

Ambrose: Both seasons are filled with color, they're exciting, but what's wonderful about it is there's a lot of classic pieces. I think consumers are really looking for classic fashion that has punctuation, so there's a lot of play on texture, but the color is really what's exciting. It's very reminiscent of the '70s; you feel the Bianca Jagger, you feel the Diana Ross. For the fall, they're more rich jewel tones; for the spring, a lot of sorbets.

**AP: You mentioned color, but the all-black ensemble will never fail, right?**

Ambrose: An all-black ensemble will never steer you wrong, even though blue is the new black. I feel like the kimono is the new cardigan. ... A black number will never steer you wrong. That depth will always keep you svelte.

**AP: I've noticed more men wearing brown shoes. Is brown the new black?**

Ambrose: You're seeing a lot of the oxford, cognac brown shoes—it's the new neutral for men. And another thing they're doing is the sockless man; very retro. Ankle is the new sexy; ankle cleavage.

# Kate Winslet, James Cameron at Titanic 3D premiere

LONDON (AP)—Actress Kate Winslet and director James Cameron walked the red carpet in London on Tuesday for the premiere of the 3D version of the hit movie "Titanic."

The 1997 drama—one of the highest grossing films of all time—will be available in British cinemas in 3D in April,

coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's doomed maiden voyage from southern England's Southampton in April 1912.

"The 3D enriches all of Titanic's most thrilling moments and its most emotional moments," Cameron told reporters. "It kicks the whole experience up

to another level."

The director came to London fresh from his latest venture, which saw him descending seven miles (11 1/4 kilometers) below the surface of the Pacific to the deepest place on Earth.

"One of the reasons I made Titanic was that I was fascinated by deep sea exploration," he

said. "It was an opportunity to dive in a submarine very deep at that time."

Winslet, who starred with Leonardo DiCaprio in the movie, joked that she would rather look away than see herself nude in 3D.

"I'm not going to look, I'll be in the bar by that point," she said.

# Lorax statue taken from home of Dr. Seuss' widow

SAN DIEGO (AP)—They took the Lorax, made of bronze, the thieves they came, and now he's gone.

A 2-foot statue of Dr. Seuss' Lorax character was stolen from the San Diego backyard garden of the 90-year-old widow of the beloved author whose real name was Theodre Geisel.

Audrey Geisel noticed the statue and its tree-stump base were missing from the garden and were likely stolen over the weekend.

Property manager Carl Romero told U-T San Diego on Tuesday that he found footprints indicating the thieves had dragged the 300-

pound statue to an access road and lifted it over a fence.

He had seen the statue Saturday afternoon, and Geisel noticed it was missing Monday morning.

Audrey Geisel's daughter Lark Grey Dimond-Cate cast two of the sculptures. One was the lone Seuss character to reside on the family's property overlooking the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla. The other sits at the Dr. Seuss National Memorial in the author's hometown, Springfield, Mass. Theodore Geisel died in 1991 at age 87.

"I want very badly to get our little Lorax back home where

he belongs," Dimond-Cate said. "Wherever he is, he's scared, lonely and hungry. He's not just a hunk of metal to us. He was a family pet."

The Lorax has enjoyed special notoriety because of the recently released film version of Dr. Seuss's 1971 environmental fable, in which the mustachioed main character speaks out for the Truffula trees against corporate greed, personified by the evil Once-ler.

Dimond-Cate said she actually hopes the Lorax was stolen because of his newfound fame. Otherwise it could mean he was

stolen for the bronze.

"I hope he hasn't been taken across the border into Tijuana for scrap," she said. "Worst-case scenario, I'll get the foundry to create another one, but he won't be the same."

Romero said the statue was stolen just before security cameras were installed, and few knew it was there.

The family has called San Diego police.

Romero said Audrey Geisel doesn't want to punish anyone and just wants the Lorax back.

"You can't sell it on eBay," he said.

# Wife suspects husband didn't vacation in Vegas by himself

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** "Darrel" and I have been married 28 years. I thought we had an easy, comfortable relationship. We have no children; it's just the two of us with a large family of furry animals. We don't take vacations together because one of us has to be home to care for the animals.

Last year Darrel took four trips to Las Vegas—two for business and two for special sporting events. I'm beginning to get little nagging signals that he may not have been on these trips alone.

He shuts his phone off for hours at a time and changed the password on his computer after I had to get on it for a security update. The last time he went, he told me he had won two tickets in Las Vegas to a show, so I asked him to bring the extra one home so I could see it. When he returned, he didn't have it. He said he had misplaced it.

There are other things, too, and I don't know what to think. I don't want to hurt his feelings if there isn't anything going on, but I need to know. What do I do?

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS?

**DEAR WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS:** If your intuition is telling you that something is wrong, listen to it. Tell Darrel you're feeling insecure and why. Start going with him to Las Vegas. Hire a pet sitter if necessary. It will be money well spent. If your husband isn't open to it, hire a private investigator to tell you what's going on. Clearly, something is up.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My 7-year-old son, "Kenny," is being bullied at school. He was punched so hard in the stomach that I had to get him medical care. I have called the school board and no one has done anything about it. What else can I do? Kenny is small for his age and weighs only 40 pounds. I'm worried for him.

WORRIED ABOUT MY BOY IN TULSA

**DEAR WORRIED:** Assuming that you have already spoken to your son's teacher and the principal of Kenny's school, as well as having contacted the school board, your next step would be to discuss this with a lawyer. The fact that your son was hit so hard he needed medical attention should be all the proof he or she needs to help you deal with this.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have muscular dystrophy and am beginning to need my wheelchair full time. My friends and family are doing whatever they can to make their homes accessible so I am not left out of activities. They mean everything to me, and I depend on them a great deal.

My wheelchair can be unforgiving when going around doorways, hardwood flooring, etc. It's inevitable that I will damage something in someone's home and I will feel terrible about it. What should I do when this happens? I may not even know I did it. I can't fix every scratch I make or clean every track I leave on the rug. I want to be invited, but I also want to be a good guest. What do you think?

PLANNING IN ADVANCE, COLUMBUS, OHIO

**DEAR PLANNING IN ADVANCE:** Because you are wisely planning in advance, this is a conversation you should have with your family and friends now, before the need arises. Explain your concerns and offer to pay for the repair of any damage caused by your wheelchair. I'm sure the offer will be appreciated, whether or not they take you up on it in the event of an accident.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*

# First star bounced from new season of 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Martina Navratilova has done her last dance on "Dancing With the Stars."

The tennis champ was eliminated from the TV dance competition Tuesday and became the first star dismissed from the series' new season.

She came into the results episode in last place and was disappointed, but apparently not surprised, at her dismissal. She said she gave it everything she had but confessed that she made mistakes during her jive routine Monday.

Returning to compete next week will be actors Jaleel White, Roshon Fagan, William Levy, Jack Wagner and Melissa Gilbert; singers Gladys Knight, Gavin DeGraw and Katherine Jenkins; TV personalities Maria Menounos and Sherri Shepherd; and football star Donald Driver.



AP  
In this photo provided by ABC, tennis champ Martina Navratilova, left, and partner Tony Dovolani perform on "Dancing With the Stars" on Monday, March 26, 2012.

# Fox's Geraldo Rivera: I'm sorry for hoodie comment

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel commentator Geraldo Rivera said Tuesday that he's sorry for suggesting that a hoodie worn by unarmed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin was as much responsible for his death as the neighborhood watch captain who shot him.

Rivera said a conversation with his oldest son on Monday con-

vinced him he was wrong. Rivera said it was the first time 32-year-old Gabriel Rivera had said he was ashamed of something his dad had said—and it caused the dad a sleepless night.

"He had never, ever used language like that," Rivera said. "It was like, 'Whoa, what have I done that would make my son say that?'"

Rivera's comments last week triggered an angry response among people concerned about the case involving the 17-year-old Martin, who was carrying a bag of candy and a can of iced tea while returning to the Sanford, Fla., home of his father's fiancée when he was shot last month.

Martin, who was black, was

shot by George Zimmerman, who has a white father and a Hispanic mother and has said he was acting in self-defense. The lack of legal action taken against Zimmerman has stoked racial tensions and led to protests around the country and debate about self-defense legislation.

Rivera said he was apologizing "for offending anyone."

"I apologize for the language," he said. "I don't apologize at all for the substance of my advice. I was trying to save lives."

Rivera said his oldest son was witness to tension between his father and brother, 24-year-old Cruz Rivera, over the young man's clothing. Rivera said he wanted urban parents to realize that clothing their children wear—such as hooded T-shirts or low-slung pants—could appear menacing to people who don't know them and could put them unnecessarily in danger.

People lost sight of the message because of the provocative words blaming the hoodie as much as Zimmerman, Rivera said. The death of an unarmed teenager should be the issue, he said.

"I wanted to provoke a response," he said. "I never expected it to be a viral avalanche."

# Hutcherson of 'Hunger Games' to toss Reds pitch

CINCINNATI (AP)—Happy Reds' games! A star of the hit movie "The Hunger Games" will throw out the ceremonial first pitch for the Miami Marlins-Cincinnati Reds game April 7.

Josh Hutcherson is a native of nearby Union, Ky., featured in the new movie about teens fighting each other to death in a bleak future. It opened last weekend with a \$152.5 million box office, third-biggest ever.

Meanwhile, a Cincinnati-area resident with experience in a less-gory competition between youths will sing the National Anthem before the night game. Eben Franckewitz was a contestant on this season's "American Idol."

The Reds in recent years have followed Cincinnati's traditional Opening Day celebrations with promotions for their second, "Opening Night" game. Reds players will walk a red carpet to greet fans before the game.



AP  
Actor Josh Hutcherson attends a special screening of "The Hunger Games" hosted by The Cinema Society and Calvin Klein Collection at SVA Theatre on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in New York.

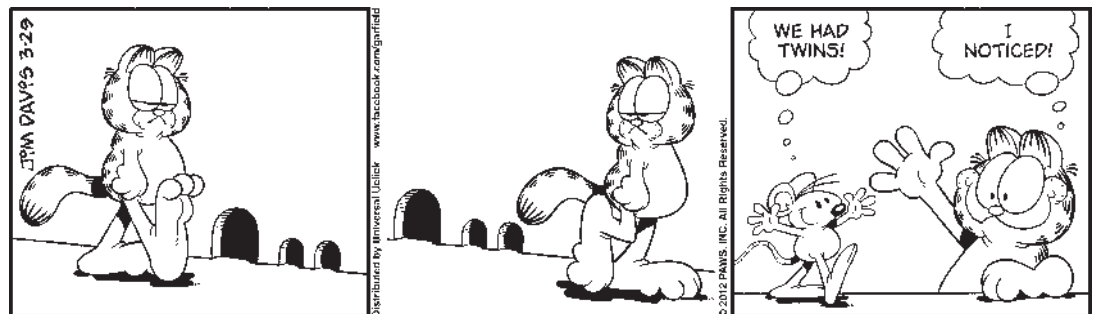
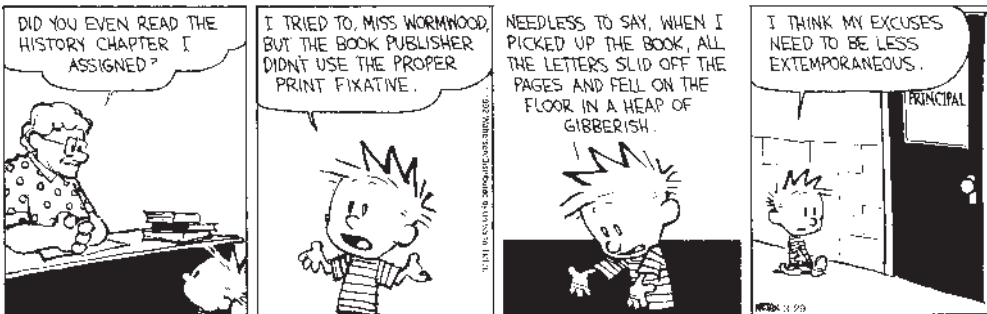
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

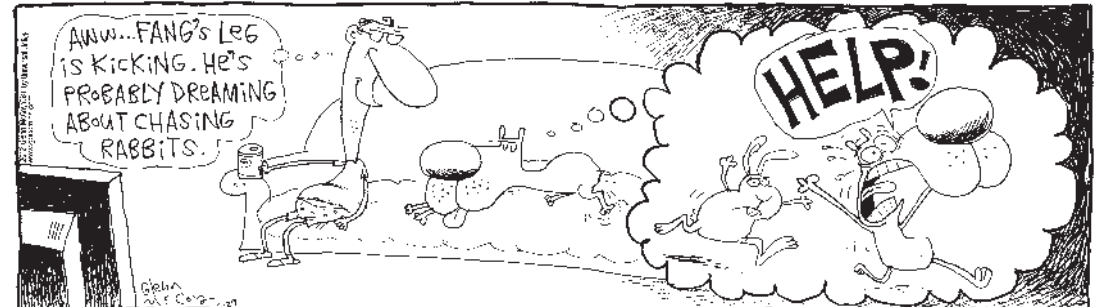


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

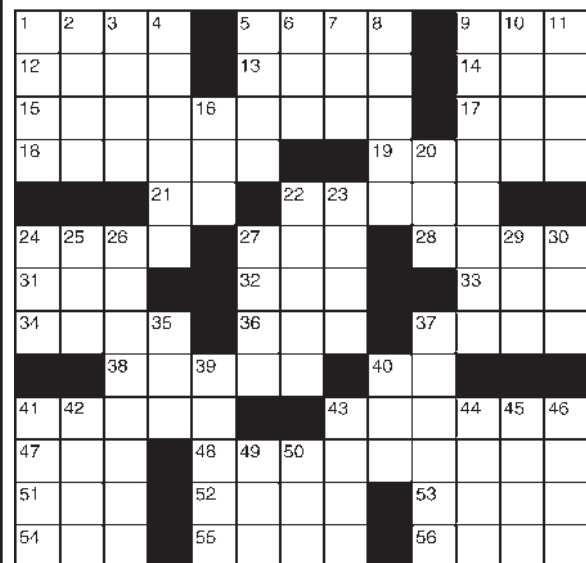
1 Big bash  
5 Virtue's opposite  
9 Flop  
12 Japanese sashes  
13 Exotic berry  
14 Compass dir.  
15 Withdrawing from office  
17 "Cool" amount of cash  
18 Ranking  
19 Part of Hispaniola  
21 Morning hour on a sundial  
22 "Psycho" setting  
24 Hospital furnishings  
27 Space  
28 Organization  
31 Anger  
32 Sailor's assent  
33 "I" strain?  
34 Tournament component

**DOWN**

1 Pantheon figures  
2 Help in a crime  
3 Peru's capital  
4 Unchanged  
5 Cisterns  
6 Here (Fr.)  
7 Has the skill set  
8 Square dance group  
9 Cecil B. and Agnes  
10 One sandwich shop  
11 Hit on the head  
12 Perhaps  
23 Oil cartel  
24 Humongous  
25 Geological time  
26 Wicker-covered bottle  
27 Group of hoods  
29 "Yecchi!"  
30 Lad  
35 Big Aussie bird  
37 Not quite  
39 South American range  
40 Intention  
41 Hit on the head  
42 Oppositionist  
43 Kitchen fixture  
44 Greek vowel  
45 Composer Khachaturian  
46 Profits  
49 Previous night  
50 West of Hollywood

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 3-29



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jessica Chastain, 31; Megan Hilty, 31; Lucy Lawless, 44; Amy Sedaris, 51.

**Happy Birthday:** Put greater effort into relationships. Communication will lead to greater stability and closer bonds with the people who count most in your life. An opportunity to reconnect with someone from your past will result in professional opportunities that can help solve financial worries. A partnership will help to stabilize your life. Your numbers are 9, 12, 15, 23, 32, 41, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Show more patience and tolerance when dealing with personal relationships. It's important to give any partnership you are involved in a chance to develop. Communication is highlighted. Ask questions and you will solve any problem that crops up. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Use your imagination and step outside your comfort zone for a change. It's important to explore new avenues if you want to expand your horizons, meet new people and learn new things. Love is worth pursuing, and romance will pay off. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Keep things simple and avoid any sort of misunderstanding that can develop between you and someone you associate with for business or pleasure. Avoid impulse purchases that promise the impossible and people pressuring you for handouts. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Let your imagination lead you. You need to experience something a little out of the ordinary if you want to challenge your mind. Utilize your

skills to help a cause or someone in need and you will create a demand for your services. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Use ingenuity to come up with a plan. A good idea can help you improve your home life and environment. Getting involved in an organization or group that appreciates your talents will also lead to interesting friendships and positive challenges. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Put love first. Do something special for the people you care about most. Visit someone you enjoy spending time with. A chance to learn something valuable will play a role in your personal and professional progress. Love is highlighted. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** A change will help you put your life in perspective. Take a short trip or change your surroundings to better suit your needs. Don't let complainers hold you back. Embrace knowledge and the people you relate to the most. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Put pizzazz into the way you live your life or into your surroundings. You'll find inspiration in the changes you make. Raise your standards when it comes to business partnerships. Use imagination and you will succeed. Romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Take action if you want to keep the peace. It's what you do that will count in the end. Focus on making your home a better place. Change will bring respect and clear the passage for better things to come. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take a walk down memory lane and recall some of the things that used to be important to you. Rethink your strategy and incorporate ideas from the past that suit what you are trying to accomplish now. Love is in the stars. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Good fortune can be yours if you do the right thing. Discipline will enable you to accomplish goals that have eluded you. Strive to make improvements for the right reasons. Ulterior motives based on what others want will lead to failure. ★★★★★

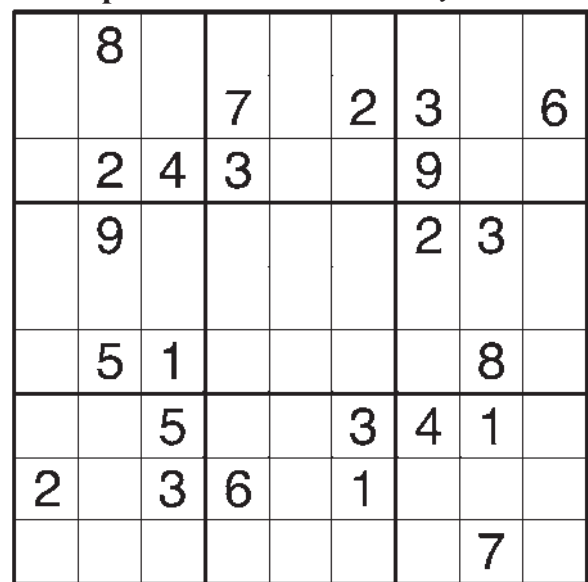
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Practical application of ideas will ensure success. Don't let your imagination run wild or your emotions cause you to reach for the impossible. Baby steps will build a solid foundation that will bring you years of satisfaction. ★★  
**Birthday Baby:** You are inquisitive and emotionally sensitive. You exude lots of charm and charisma.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



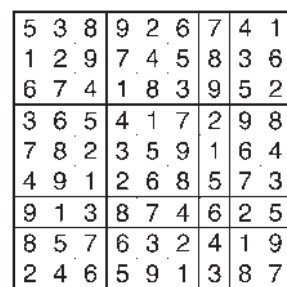
Difficulty Level ★★★

3/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

3/29

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE COMPACT OXFORD THESAURUS

Solution: 4 letters



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3/29

Accurate, Alternative, Answer, Antonym, Choose, Definition, Easy, Expand, Find, Grammar, Help, Language, Links, List, Look, Material, Meaning, Notes, Nouns, Online, Panels, Phrases, Pronunciation, Punctuation, Read, Sample, School, Sentence, Similar, Spelling, Students, Study, Style, Synonyms, Teach, University, Useful, Varied, Words, Word, Yesterday's Answer: Warrior

Today's WONDERWORD: Volume 3, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**FRANCISCA NEBRIDA GAOLONG** ) **FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION**  
Petitioner, ) **NO. 11-0587**

vs. ) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

**FENG GAOLONG** ) **RESPONDENT.**

**TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT: FENG GAOLONG**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501731, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief I the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:** ) **FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0049**

**MATHEW EUGARIO, EVAN EUGARIO, AND JEWEL NGIRALMAU,** ) **ORDER CONTINUING HEARING**  
Minor Children. )

**By:** )

**EUCLID EUGARIO AND GLORI MEREB,** )  
Petitioner. )

**THIS MATTER** came for hearing on March 6, 2012, at 1:30pm in Courtroom 217A on the application of Petitioners, Euclid Eugario and Glori Mereb, for appointment of Jorina Ngirkiklang and Billy Ngirkiklang as legal guardians for the minor children. Petitioners appeared pro se. Jorina Ngirkiklang and the minor children were also present.

The Court, having heard and fully considered the application and evidence thereon, finds and orders as follows:

- Petitioners are the natural parents of the minors and permanent residents of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Jorina Ngirkiklang and Billy Ngirkiklang are the paternal grandparents of the minors and residents of Atlanta, Georgia.
- The minor children, Mathew Eugario, born on December 23, 1996, Evan Eugario, born on March 4, 1999, and Jewel Ngiralmu, born on July 3, 2001. All minors were born in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Petitioners desire to appoint Jorina Ngirkiklang and Billy Ngirkiklang to be the legal guardians for the minor children who will be relocating to Atlanta, Georgia and is need for the purpose of providing support, education, care and maintenance for the minor children.
- It would be in the best interest of said children, Mathew Eugario, Evan Eugario, and Jewel Ngiralmu that Jorina Ngirkiklang and Billy Ngirkiklang, paternal grandparents, be appointed as their legal guardian.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDRED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** that **JORINA NGIRIKILANG** and **BILLY NGIRIKILANG**, are appointed as temporary legal guardians of **MATHEW EUGARIO, EVAN EUGARIO, and JEWEL NGIRALMAU**, and is authorized to enter upon the discharge of their duties as legal guardians and shall continue therein until further order of this Court.

This matter is hereby continued to **April 12, 2012 at 9:00 am** in Courtroom **217A**. Petitioners are ordered to appear. Petitioners are ordered to publish notice at least once before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to post notice at the Courthouse for a period of (10) days before the hearing date. Petitioners are also ordered to serve notice to the maternal grandparents by personal service or service by registered mail with a return receipt.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 7th day of March, 2012.

/s/ PERRY B. INOS  
Associate Judge

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A 4BR, 2bath, concrete house located on San Isidro Ave, Chalan Kanoa, near the Sandy Beach Homes in. \$600.00 monthly.

Unfurnished. Deposit required. Utilities not included.

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# Magic Johnson group to buy Dodgers for record \$2B



Basketball legend turned entrepreneur Magic Johnson tours the Sports Museum of America in New York, Friday, Nov. 21, 2008. AP

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A group that includes former Lakers star Magic Johnson and longtime baseball executive Stan Kasten agreed Tuesday night to buy the Los Angeles Dodgers from Frank McCourt for a record \$2 billion.

The price would shatter the mark for a sports franchise, Stephen Ross paid \$1.1 billion for the NFL's Miami Dolphins in 2009, and in England Malcolm Glazer and his family took over the Manchester United

soccer club in 2005 in a deal then valued at \$1.47 billion.

Mark Walter, chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners, would become the controlling owner.

The deal, revealed about five hours after Major League Baseball owners approved three finalists for an intended auction, is one of several steps toward a sale of the team by the end of April. It is subject to approval in federal bankruptcy court.

"I am thrilled to be part of the historic Dodger franchise and intend to build on the fantastic foundation laid by Frank McCourt as we drive the Dodgers back to the front page of the sports section in our wonderful community of Los Angeles," Johnson said in a statement.

As part of the agreement, the Dodgers said McCourt and "certain affiliates of the purchasers" would acquire the land surrounding Dodger Stadium, including its parking lots, for \$150 million.

"If they invested that much money, I'm sure they'll invest to get us a winner," said Tommy Lasorda, the Dodgers' retired Hall of Fame manager. "I wish them all the luck, and I admire them. I know both of them. I know Magic from the day he came into Los Angeles as a basketball player for the Lakers."

The acquiring group, called Guggenheim Baseball Management, has several other investors, among them Mandalay Entertainment chief executive Peter Guber, Guggenheim Partners president Todd Boehly and Bobby Patton, who operates oil and gas properties among his investments. Kasten is the former president of the Atlanta Braves and Washington Nationals.

"I am truly honored to have partnered with such talented individuals and to be associated

with the Dodgers organization," Walter said. "We look forward to building upon the legacy of the Dodgers and providing long-term stability to one of the most revered franchises in baseball."

The 52-year-old Johnson played 13 seasons for the Los Angeles Lakers, winning five NBA championships and three MVP awards.

He retired from the NBA in 1991 after being diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. He briefly came out of retirement during the 1995-96 season and had a short stint coaching the Lakers. Since leaving basketball, he has been hugely successful in business, investing in movie theaters, a production company and restaurants.

He has also been an activist in the fight against HIV.

Kobe Bryant, speaking after the Lakers' 104-101 victory at Golden State Tuesday night, said this about Johnson's group acquiring Dodgers:

"I'm upset he didn't cut me in," Bryant said. "I'm going to have to talk to him about that."

McCourt paid \$430 million in 2004 to buy the team, Dodger Stadium and 250 acres of land that include the parking lots, from the Fox division of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., a sale that left the team with about \$50 million in cash at the time. The team's debt stood at \$579 million as of January, according to a court filing, so McCourt stands to make hundreds of millions of dollars even after a \$131 million divorce payment to former wife Jamie, taxes and legal and banking fees.

Kasten is expected to wind up as the team's top day-to-day executive.

The other two finalists were: - Stan Kroenke, whose family properties own the NFL's St. Louis Rams, the NBA's Denver Nuggets, the NHL's

Colorado Avalanche and Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids, and who is majority shareholder of Arsenal in the English Premier League.

- Steven Cohen, founder of the hedge fund SAC Capital Advisors and a new limited partner of the New York Mets; biotechnology entrepreneur Patrick Soon-Shiong; and agent Arn Tellem of Wasserman Media Group.

It remains to be seen whether Major League Baseball will challenge the deal in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware, where the case is before Judge Kevin Gross.

Under an agreement reached by MLB and McCourt in November, a private auction was to be held among the finalists and McCourt was to select the winner by Sunday. The sales agreement is to be submitted to the bankruptcy court by April 6, ahead of a hearing seven days later, and the sale completed by April 30, the day McCourt is to make the divorce settlement payment.

"This agreement with Guggenheim reflects both the strength and future potential of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and assures that the Dodgers will have new ownership with deep local roots, which bodes well for the Dodgers, its fans and the Los Angeles community," McCourt said in a statement.

The acquiring group would gain the ability to sell the Dodgers' local broadcasting rights starting with games in 2014. The Guggenheim group likely would use money gained from the sale—or form the team's own network with outside investment—and use those funds to pay down the acquisition debt.

"The amount of leverage is a big question," said Marc Ganis, president of the Chicago-based consulting firm SportsCorp,

## Chamberlain expects to pitch in majors this year

**TAMPA, Fla.**

(AP)—New York Yankees reliever Joba Chamberlain says he fully expects to recover from his trampoline injury and pitch in the majors this season.

Chamberlain spoke Tuesday at the Yankees' spring training complex about last week's accident that left him with a dislocated right ankle. He is on crutches and will be in a cast for six weeks.

Chamberlain says he feels he let the team down. But he also says he's not second-guessing himself for playing with his 5-year-old son at a Tampa-area recreation spot.

The 26-year-old righty says

he didn't break any bones and has been free of infection.

Chamberlain was in camp this spring working his way back from elbow ligament replacement surgery last year. He had been expected to return in June or July before his accident.



Chamberlain

which is not involved. "The likely scenario is that they have a broadcasting deal in mind so that they pay up now and pay themselves down from a big broadcasting upfront payment.

"The problem with this strategy is that the more paid upfront by the broadcast deal, the less money is available for team operations. The more debt they take on, the more debt service is required, the less money that's available for team operations. With the only beneficiary being the man walking out the door. A challenging result that baseball tried to avoid."

The current record for a baseball franchise is the \$845 million paid by the Ricketts family for the Chicago Cubs in 2009. In England, Malcolm Glazer and his family took over the Manchester United soccer club in 2005 in a deal then valued at \$1.47 billion.

The Dodgers filed for bankruptcy protection in late June, just days before the team was expected to miss payroll. The filing came after baseball Commissioner Bud Selig refused to approve a 17-year agreement between the Dodgers and Fox's Prime Ticket subsidiary that would have been worth \$2 billion or more. MLB feared McCourt would use about half of an intended \$385 million cash advance to fund his divorce.

Los Angeles finished third in the NL West last season at 82-79, had just three sellouts and fell short of 3 million in home attendance in a full season for the first time since 1992. There was some concern among MLB officials about the financing of the Walter bid because some of the money was coming from insurance companies that are owned by Guggenheim. A person familiar with the baseball

owners' teleconference Tuesday said several team owners voiced that during the call. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because MLB did not make any announcements.

"The problem there is a fundamental problem as you go into an auction, and that is the absolute reliance on other people's money," Ganis said. "It means a lot of regulators. It means either shareholders or, depending on which insurance companies it's coming from, the insured themselves."

Kasten was hired as legal counsel of the Atlanta Braves and the NBA's Hawks in 1976, and three years later became the NBA's youngest general manager at 27. He was promoted to president of the Braves and Hawks in 1986 and also became president of the NHL's Thrashers in 1999. After leaving the Atlanta teams in 2003, he became president of the Washington Nationals from 2006-10.

Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti had dinner with Kasten in Glendale, Ariz., the team's spring training home.

"He's very successful, very driven, relentless in his pursuit of excellence," Colletti said. "He's seen a lot and he's won a lot."

The Dodgers have won six World Series titles but none since 1988, when they were still owned by the O'Malley family that moved the team from Brooklyn to California after the 1957 season. Fox bought the team in 1998, then sold it to McCourt.

Colletti, whose baseball moves appear to have been constricted because of the team's financial problems, says the sale announcement brings "clarity."

"It's time to turn the page and move toward a new chapter in the history of the Los Angeles Dodgers," he said.

## Palmer released from hospital after overnight stay



**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—Arnold Palmer is out of the hospital and back at work.

A spokesman for the tournament named for the golfing great says Palmer was released Monday morning. The 82-year-old Palmer had been hospitalized overnight in Florida as a precaution because of high blood pressure from new medication.

Spokesman Bev Norwood said Palmer returned to his office Monday and planned on having dinner at the golf club.

Palmer was absent at the 18th green at Bay Hill on Sunday when Tiger Woods won the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Palmer had been advised to monitor his blood pressure throughout the day. A test about 15 minutes before the tournament ended showed an increase in his blood pressure.

# Westbrook has 32 and Thunder beat Blazers



**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)**—Russell Westbrook had 32 points and eight assists, and Kevin Durant scored 25 points as the Western Conference-leading Oklahoma City Thunder won their fourth straight with a 109-95 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday.

Reserve James Harden added 21 points for the Thunder, who built a 65-47 lead by halftime and led by as many as 20 points.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 points and eight rebounds as Portland fell to 3-4 under Kaleb Canales, who took over as interim coach when the Blazers fired Nate McMillan at the NBA trade deadline.

## Lakers 104, Warriors 101

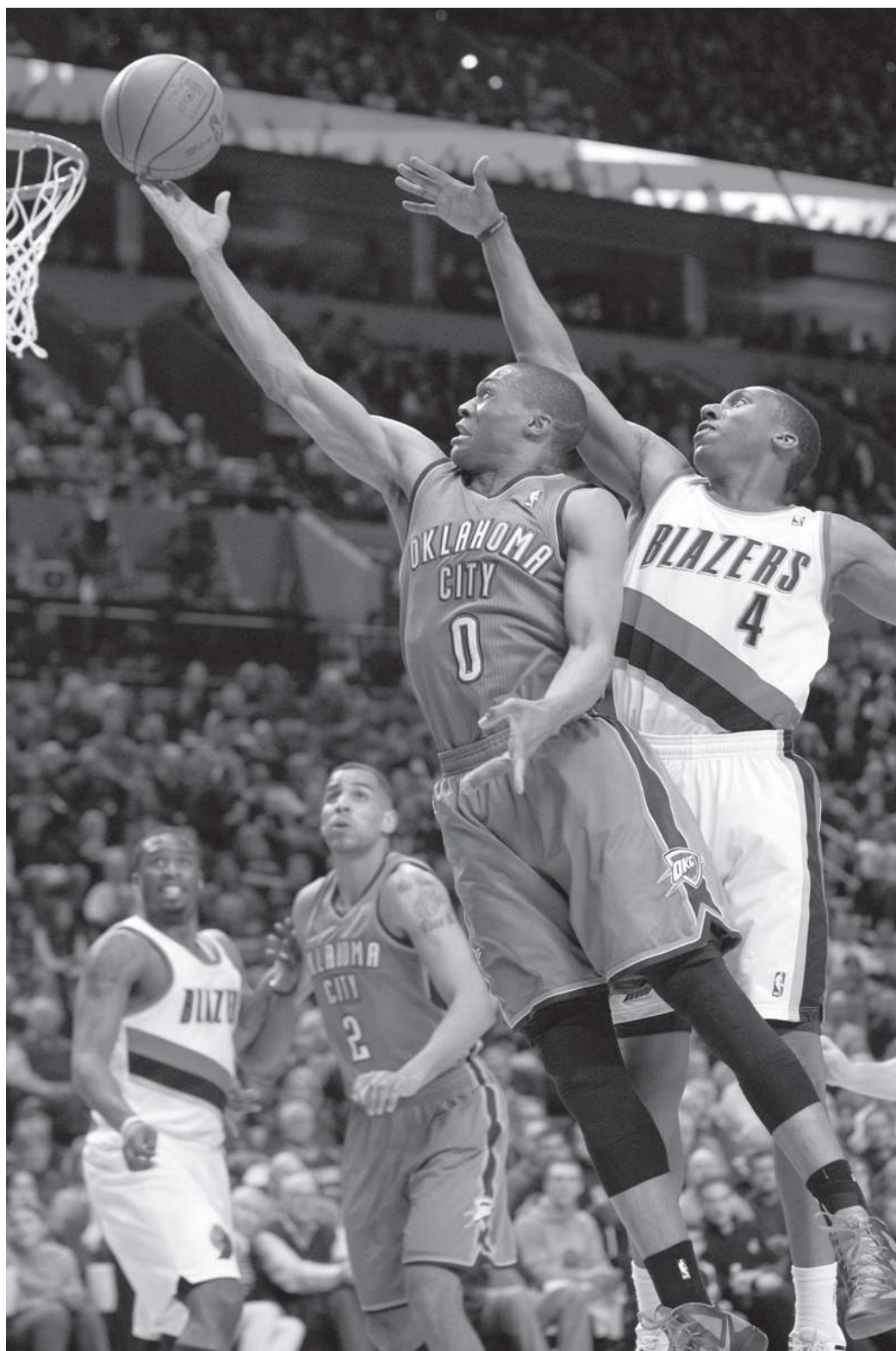
In Oakland, California, Kobe Bryant made a pair of jump shots in the final 64 seconds, finishing with 30 points to lead the Los Angeles Lakers past Golden State. is back to being the closer.

Two days after getting benched late in a home loss to Memphis, Bryant missed his first two shots in the final period before twice rising over a pair of defenders for difficult fall-away jumpers from the corner. The first tied the game and the second put the Lakers ahead by two—and for good—with 32 seconds remaining.

Former Warriors forward Matt Barnes had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Pau Gasol added 19 points and 17 rebounds to give Los Angeles its third win in four games.

## Spurs 107, Suns 100

In Phoenix, Tony Parker scored



Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook (0) lays the ball up as Portland Trail Blazers' Nolan Smith (4) defends in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 27, 2012, in Portland, Ore.

eight points in a 10-0 run early in the fourth quarter to help San Antonio win its fifth straight and eighth in nine games with a victory over Phoenix.

Tim Duncan scored 17 of his 26 points in the first half and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Spurs, winners of 12 of their last 14 road games. Parker scored half of his 24 in the fourth quarter.

Shannon Brown, starting because Grant Hill was a late scratch with right knee inflammation, scored a career-high 32 points for the Suns. Marcin Gortat added 21 points and 14 rebounds in just the second home loss for the Suns in 10 games since the All-Star break.

## Mavericks 90, Rockets 81

In Dallas, Jason Terry scored seven consecutive points in a minute to start a game-turning run for Dallas, finishing with 12 points and four assists in a win over Houston.

Dirk Nowitzki had 21 points despite shooting 5 of 17, Rodrigue Beaubois had 14 points and Brandan Wright added 13.

Luis Scola had 22 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, while Goran Dragic scored 17 points. Chandler Parsons had 15 points and nine rebounds.

## 76ers 103, Cavaliers 85

In Phoenix, Jodie Meeks scored a career-high 31 points and Jrue Holiday had 19 to lead Philadelphia over Cleveland.

Evan Turner scored 12 points for the Sixers, who moved a half-game ahead of Boston and back into sole possession of first place in the

Atlantic Division. The Sixers have held the top spot in the Atlantic for all but a few days early in the season.

The Sixers romped without Andre Iguodala, who missed his second straight game because of left patella tendinitis. Meeks started in his place and was 7 of 10 from 3-point range.

Anthony Parker scored 14 points and Kyrie Irving had 12 for the Cavaliers.

## Bucks 108, Hawks 101

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis scored 33 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, and had eight assists to lead Milwaukee to a win over Atlanta.

Brandon Jennings added 18 points for the Bucks, who moved within two games of the idle New York Knicks for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 30 points and 18 rebounds.

## Grizzlies 93, Timberwolves 86

In Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay scored 21 points, and Dante Cunningham added season highs of 13 points and 14 rebounds to lead Memphis over Minnesota.

Cunningham, inserted into the starting lineup after All-Star center Marc Gasol sat out with a sprained right ankle, was 6 of 9 from the field as all five Memphis starters finished in double figures.

Marreese Speights had 18 points, Tony Allen finished with 13, and Mike Conley had 12 points and eight assists as the Grizzlies won their second straight.

Kevin Love led Minnesota with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

# Payton seeks Parcells' counsel about Saints' plan



**PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—Sean Payton has planned the New Orleans Saints' offseason, done some work on the upcoming draft and jotted down ideas for the start of training camp.

And now, with his season-long suspension set to begin Sunday, he is checking to see if mentor Bill Parcells would run the team while he serves his penalty for allowing a Saints assistant coach and players to operate a crunch-for-cash bounty system.

Speaking publicly for the first time since the Saints were sanctioned for targeting specific opponents, Payton said Tuesday he will soon decide whether to appeal his suspension, something Commissioner Roger Goodell said he would allow.

Payton also said he was meeting with Parcells, who lives near Palm Beach, site of the NFL

meetings, to discuss the plan for the season.

"For me to be down here, if I didn't call him or try to set up a time to see him, I'd probably get his wrath," Payton said.

Payton said he, general manager Mickey Loomis—who is facing an eight-game suspension—and team owner Tom Benson are weighing a number of scenarios. Among them: Does Parcells want to coach?

If he appeals, and he has until Monday, Goodell said he would "probably" allow him to continue working past the intended start of his suspension. Goodell also said he would expedite the appeal process and his decision, meaning Payton might only get a few more days of work before having to step aside.

The NFL's investigation in New Orleans found that Payton initially lied to league investigators about the existence of a bounty and instructed his defensive assistants to do the same.

Payton twice apologized for his role in an enterprise that offered payouts for knocking out opponents, saying he takes "full responsibility" for a system that operated for three years under his watch.

As many as 27 players could also be sanctioned for their role in the scandal.

"As the head coach, anything that happens in the framework of your team and your program, you're responsible for," Payton said. "And that's a lesson I've learned. And it's one that it's easy to get carried away, in regards to a certain side of the ball or more involved offensively or defensively. And that's something that I regret."

Payton said he was confident he will coach the Saints again in 2013, and that his biggest challenge was realizing that for the first time in 39 years, he may not have an active role in football as a player or coach.

"You go through a range of

emotions that kind of hit you," Payton said. "You're disappointed. You're disappointed in yourself that it got to this point. I think we're trained as coaches to begin preparation right away. I find myself reflecting on it, and you go through a lot of emotions."

Asked if he might work in broadcasting this season, Payton said anyone in his position would keep their options open. He said he hasn't been in touch with Gregg Williams, the former Saints defensive coordinator who ran the bounty system and was suspended indefinitely. Asked if bounties were what he envisioned when he asked Williams to build a defense, he replied, "No, obviously not."

Much of the conversation revolved around Parcells, the two-time Super Bowl winner who hired Payton as an offensive assistant in Dallas in 2003 and was a finalist for the Hall of Fame this season.

"He's a great teacher," Payton said. "Certainly I'm biased, having worked with him. But he's a Hall of Fame head coach. And I would also say there's some things probably set up in the framework of our program that would be exactly how he would have set those things up had he been the head coach here in '06. So there's some carry-over that way."

If Parcells returned to the sideline, he may have to wait another five years before becoming eligible for the Hall of Fame again. Parcells, who turns 71 in August, may not want to wait that long. Asked by Sports Illustrated on Monday if he had a desire to coach another team, Parcells said, "I don't think so."

In addition to the penalties for Payton and Loomis, the league suspended assistant head coach Joe Vitt for six games. Goodell also fined the Saints \$500,000 and took away second-round draft choices in

2012 and 2013.

Arthur Blank, owner of NFC South rival Atlanta, praised Goodell's strong punishment.

"I think he dealt with it appropriately," Blank told ESPN.com. "I think it will be one of the most significant decisions he'll ever make as the commissioner. I think he'll be the commissioner for the next 30 years and I think people will look back and say he sent a message to the teams, the players, the coaches, everybody in the NFL and sent a message to the fans that, 'This is not what we're going to have in this league.'"

Payton said he didn't want the scandal to "taint or tarnish" his team's recent success.

"We'll get through this," he said. "This will be a challenge. ... You know, we've gone through a lot of adversity and we've won a lot of games in really a short window of time. And I know our players are leaders both within the locker room and the coaching staff will look at this as a challenge and a little bit as an opportunity."

# Vivid Blue, MPU renew ties



Vivid Blue and MP United coaches and players pose for a group photo during a get-together dinner at Bobby's Cadillac last Monday night.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Japan-based Vivid Blue paid MP United a visit to renew its ties with the local football club.

Vivid Blue president and founder Sachiko Tahara, coach

been a pleasure to come here and meet with out sister club, MP United," Tahara said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Monday night through interpreter Yasuko Joynor.

After the attending the host's practice sessions and meeting MP United's players, the visitors also went to Garapan Elementary School last Tuesday for cultural exchange with GES students.

"We at Vivid Blue not only teach our players how to play soccer, but also how to learn the way of life of people outside Japan," Tahara added.

MP United official Vickie Izuka, who led the club's welcome dinner for Tahara and company last Monday, said they are very grateful to Vivid Blue for visiting the island almost every year and bringing players to interact

with local strikers. "We're happy to have them again and see them enjoy playing with our players this afternoon (Monday). They just started meeting our players this afternoon, but it looked like they love to team up with MP United players. We hope that one day we could also send some players to Japan again to meet the rest of Vivid Blue officials and players," Izuka said.

MP United U12 coach Joel Jimenez was also present at the dinner and the team's practice session last Monday and said that Vivid Blue's visit had mutual benefits to the sister clubs.

"Vivid coaches shared tips and its players also showed our players some moves. Their level of play is very good. They were able to shows our players a different style of playing soccer. Vivid coaches also worked with our players and we exchanged coaching ideas," Jimenez said. Vivid Blue was founded in 2006 in Numazu, Sizuoka, with its members totaling to more than 100 and divided into different age groups. The club also has a good number of adult players.

## SHUTOUT

From Page 28

Lizardo, Marrielle Gariguez, Jeralyn Castillo, Alexa Vergara, Lyvette Lacsina, Reylynn Sapong, Liezel Tipples, Dianne Pablo, Glorily Williams, and Rachel Abrams.

Playing for MP United are Kristine Guevarra, Lisha Zhu, Chuanxia Hinson, Laami Zapanta, Margie Camu, Abigail Hudkins, Kyung Ryung Kim, Fedora Camacho, Julien Estopado, Julie Hall, Rachel Masga, Kathy Ruzsala, Tomoko Bogdan, Mi-

chelle Masga, Angela Gabaldon, Masami Sato, Su Jin Jeon, Kristie Ogbac, Jhumilyn Esposo, Amy Taylor, and Seong Hyun Lee.

Meanwhile, the two other games in Week 1 of the women's league were also decided via shutouts.

### Paire 3, Tan Holdings 0

In the first game last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Paire blanked Tan Holdings FC.

Newcomer Kelsey Mueller nailed twin goals for Paire, while Michiko Tenorio scored the other

goal for the winning squad. Mueller found a hole in Tan Holding's defense early, making her first goal at the 9:30 mark of the first half. Then less than three minutes after her first goal, Mueller eluded her defenders anew for the back-to-back goals.

Tenorio gave a perfect ending to Paire's winning debut when she drilled a goal with only one minute left in the second and final half.

### Independents 2, Matansa 0

Independents FC also shut out its foe in the second game played at

the Hopwood pitch last weekend.

Both goals of IFC came from Pratoom Staffer, who drained her twin goals all in the first half. She broke the ice in the 18th minute and nine minutes later notched her second goal.

Meanwhile, action in the women's league resumes tomorrow with Shirley's FC taking on Tan Holdings at 7:15 at the Oleai pitch. Then on Saturday, Matansa will duel Paire at 8:30am, while IFC will go for win No.2 against MP United at 10:30am. Both Saturday games will be played at the Hopwood pitch.

## WATCH

From Page 28

PIC. After the swim, bikers will head to Koblerville and then return to San Antonio all the way to the Bird Island Lookout with riders also passing through Ban-zai and Suicide Cliffs.

"Dog owners in Koblerville, please take care of your pets," Mojica added.

After the bike race, triathletes will head to the American Memorial Park for the bike-run

transition. Then for the final leg of the race, the 15-km run, participants will cruise Beach Road up to Oleai Beach, return to AMP (turning point is near the Army Reserve), and then to the finish line at the side entrance of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

### Over 100 entries

This Saturday's Tagaman race has attracted over 100 participants, including several pros who did last weekend's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Mojica added that about 10 Guam triathletes are also returning for Tagaman, while 12 Koreans and five Japanese are entered in this weekend's road race.

Participants are requested to pick up their race packet tomorrow from 3pm to 5pm at PIC.

Then on Saturday, triathletes must check-in on or before 5:30am, as the race will begin at 6am.

### Swim clinic

Meanwhile, XTERRA Saipan

winner Ben Allen of Australia will be holding an open water swim clinic at PIC today at 5pm.

The free clinic is one of the two-pre Tagaman seminars that the visiting pros are conducting. Last Tuesday, U.S. pro Will Kelsay conducted a bike clinic at PIC.

"Please take this opportunity to show your support for our off-island athletes and take advantage of a great chance to be taught by the pros," Mojica said in an email to local triathletes.

male golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system.

Previously, HANMI has supported NMI Crime Stoppers, the Department of Public Safety bike patrol program, PAWS, the Chinatown skatepark, the Victims Assistance Fund benefiting victims of the 2009 shooting incident on Saipan, Saipan Marathon, and other community causes. HANMI has also allocated \$20,000 toward the Mt. Tapochau Development Project being undertaken by the Marianas Visitors Authority. (HANMI)

# XGA March Ace this Saturday



The X-clusive Golfers Association is holding its March Ace of the Month Tournament

this Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Link in Talafofo.

Showtime is set at 12noon with a 1pm tee off.

In addition, a 9am organizational meeting will be held on Friday at the Skyway Cafe, inside the Saipan International Airport's domestic-transit building.

Mike Sablan was declared last month's ace golfer; the event was held at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

The XGA is made up of over 30 members and is currently

accepting new members until Thursday, March 1. In contrast to its name, the XGA wants the public to know that anyone can join the club, male or female.

Newcomers are required to pay a \$50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform (\$25). Membership renewal for returning members is only \$40.

On the day of events, players are also required to pay a green fee along with an additional \$30 tournament fee that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money and incentives for the club.

Contact XGA's secretary J.J. Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

## SSC

From Page 28

XTERRA Sports solo top finisher Kaisei Toda (9:11).

Ferrer picked up where Akimaru left off in the bike leg, as the veteran rider finished the 20-kilometer bike race in 1:23:36, the best time among 14 bikers and 17 minutes ahead of Toda.

With Ferrer stretching their team's lead to more than 20 minutes against Babauta's, Jenkins had the luxury of taking his time in the 5-km run leg from Micro Beach to the Anak's driveway and back. Jenkins completed the run leg at the 22:14 (third best) for his team's combined time of 1:55:42, which was about 48 minutes ahead of the Babautas (2:43:41). Ben Babauta did both the bike and run legs of XTERRA Sport and timed in at 2:00:22 and 27:52, respectively.

Team Manatee's Jim Arenovski, Mark Blackburn, and Steve Nutting, rounded out the Top 3 with a combined time of 3:11:16.

Arenovski was 10th out of the water with his 15:00, Blackburn submitted 2:25:45 in the bike (No. 13 overall), and Nutting posted 29:03 (No. 12) in the run leg.

In the Championship course, Chentsova timed in at 18:52 in the 1.5-km swim leg, the sixth

best time among 65 swimmers and faster than six pros, including eventual women's champion Renata Bucher (20:23), third placer Carina Wasle (20:57), and fourth finisher Mieke Carey (19:18).

In the 32-km bike leg, Quinn logged 2:05:46 (second fastest in relay and No. 34 overall) to keep the team's lead (about two minutes) against Guam's Jackly Goodwin (swimmer/24:01) and biker James Sardea (2:02:38).

For the final leg of the race, Gabaldon ensured the win for Saipan bets when he clocked in at 1:11:32 in the 12-km run for the team's total time of 3:37:25. Goodwin and Sardea's teammate, Michele Madantschi, recorded 1:20:28 in the run leg for their combined time of 3:48:46.

XTERRA returnees Julia Lendavi and Allan Collinson of Australia and Saipan's Ric Antonio completed the Top 3 with a time of 4:17:32. Collinson did the swim leg (21:22), Antonio worked on the bike race (2:19:57), and Lendavi was the finisher, timing in at 1:34:41.

Three other teams joined the relay: Florence Antonio, Cesar Fortaleza, and Danny Garcia (4:23:40); Daniel Calvo, Rommel Tiosejo, and Chang Whan Jang (4:38:01); and Rachel Zuercher, Max Simian, and Roxie Lamar (4:46:10).

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	28	22	.560	—
Boston	27	22	.551	1/2
New York	25	25	.500	3
Toronto	16	34	.320	12
New Jersey	16	35	.314	12 1/2

##### Southeast Division

Miami	35	13	.729	—
Orlando	32	18	.640	4
Atlanta	30	21	.588	6 1/2
Washington	11	38	.224	24 1/2
Charlotte	7	40	.149	27 1/2

##### Central Division

x-Chicago	40	11	.784	—
Indiana	29	19	.604	9 1/2
Milwaukee	23	27	.460	16 1/2
Cleveland	17	30	.362	21
Detroit	17	32	.347	22

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	34	14	.708	—
Dallas	29	22	.569	6 1/2

Memphis	27	21	.563	7
Houston	27	24	.529	8 1/2
New Orleans	12	37	.245	22 1/2

##### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	38	12	.760	—
Utah	27	23	.540	11
Denver	27	23	.540	11
Minnesota	24	27	.471	14 1/2
Portland	23	27	.460	15

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	31	19	.620	—
L.A. Clippers	28	21	.571	2 1/2
Phoenix	25	25	.500	6
Golden State	20	28	.417	10
Sacramento	17	32	.347	13 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

### Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 103, Cleveland 85  
Memphis 93, Minnesota 86  
Milwaukee 108, Atlanta 101  
Dallas 90, Houston 81  
Oklahoma City 109, Portland 95  
San Antonio 107, Phoenix 100  
L.A. Lakers 104, Golden State 101

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Run Leg of 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship

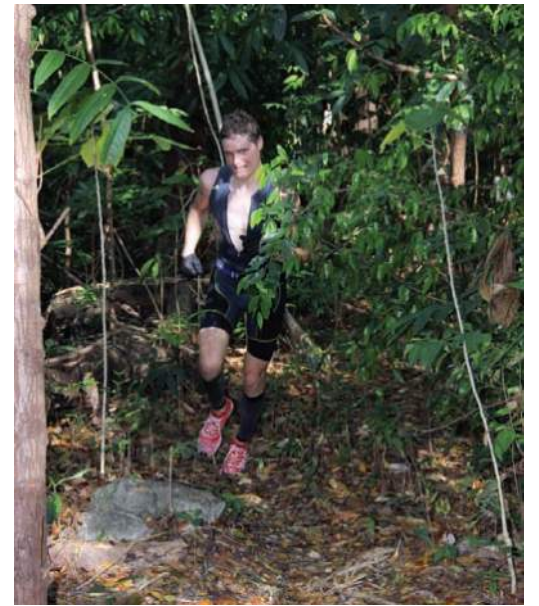
Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara enters the Anak's woods during the run leg of last Saturday's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship



Australia's Ben Allen celebrates his first place finish.



United Kingdom's Graham Wadsworth heads up to a mild climb at Anak's woods.



Paul Plunkett, left, and Ben Babauta cross the finish line together.



Germany's Jens Budens jumps off a fallen log at the Anak's woods.



Above, U.S. pro Will Kelsay runs along a paved walkway across the Anak's condominium.



Tim Goodwin nears the finish line.



U.S. pro Branden Rakita cools down after an exhausting race.



Right, Switzerland's Renata Bucher, left, and United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack, right, talk to Austria's Carina Wasle at the finish line.

**SPORTS TSL Activity Schedule for March 29, 2012**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM:** Morning practices

**6:30 PM to 9:30 PM:** Evening practices



**NMBA**  
NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

**2012 Tan Holdings Intercompany Basketball League**

**6:15 PM:** JP Center/TSL Plaza vs. POI/RMS

**8:15 PM:** Shirley's Coffee Shop vs. Fiesta Resort and Spa



**Gillette**  
MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM

There are no scheduled games.



**SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL**



**Magic Johnson group to buy Dodgers for record \$2B**

24

# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Westbrook has 32 and Thunder beat Blazers**

25



28 THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## SSC swimmers lead teams to relay wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club swimmers Kento Akimaru and Victoria Chentsova suited up for different teams and helped their respective squads win in the relay races of last Saturday's 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

Akimaru teamed up with biker Bob Ferrer and runner John Jenkins and the trio ruled the XTERRA Sport, while Chentsova joined forces with Russ Quinn and Yosh Gabaldon in topping the XTERRA Championship.



water in XTERRA Sport, completing one lap of the course (750 meters) in 8:57, about five minutes ahead of former SSC swimmer Benjamin Babauta (who teamed up with his father Ben) and 13 seconds faster that

See SSC on Page 26

## Watch out for bikers, runners in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Organizers of the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon are requesting motorists and pedestrians to be extra careful and give way to bikers and runners before and during the race. "There will be bikers/runners cruising along the course before the Saturday race, so please be very careful. We're after everyone's safety," said Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

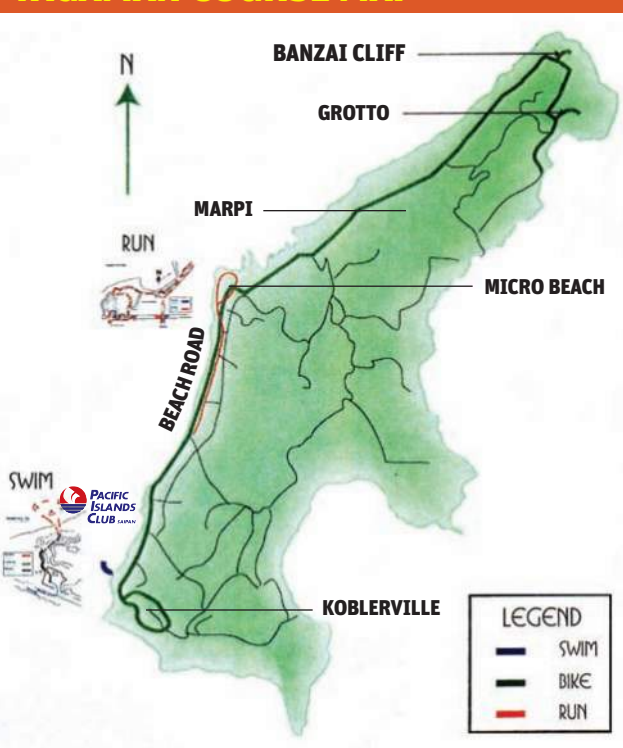
Mojica's call came a day after one pro biker was hit by a car and had his bike smashed. Fortunately, the visiting pro was unharmed.

Race organizers are calling on the public to be extra cautious on race day, especially from 6am to 12nn. A map of the bike and run course is printed together with this story and the public is advised to drive slowly or avoid these routes this Saturday.

The 60-kilometer bike leg will start in the south end of the Pacific Islands Club's parking lot in San Antonio after the 2-km swim in the waters off

See WATCH on Page 26

### TAGAMAN COURSE MAP



From left, swimmer Kento Akimaru, runner John Jenkins, and biker Bob Ferrer pose for a group photo at Micro Beach after completing the XTERRA Sport course last Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## Shutout victories in women's league opening

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Jeraldine Castillo scored the first goal of the season en route to lifting Shirley's Football Club to a 3-0 shutout win over MP United during the opening of the 2012 NMIFA Women's Spring League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Castillo found the back of the net at the 11:30 mark of the first half for Shirley's 1-0 lead and the winning team nailed two more goals in the second half to complete its strong start in the six-team league.

Melody Johnson gave Shirley's its second goal when she scored in the 70th minute and four minutes later, it was Kyla Ito's turn to light up the scoreboard.

Joining Ito, Johnson, and Castillo on the team are Maica Aniana, Angie Ito, Jhaneeka Atalig, Mikky Vargas, Charlene

See SHUTOUT on Page 26



An Independents FC player uses her long reach to gain possession against a Matansa FC striker during their game in the NMIFA women's league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

## HANMI Charity Golf Classic set for June 2

One of the most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments in the Northern Mariana Islands is set to tee-off on June 2, 2012, as the 11th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament pre-



pares to offer golfers the chance to win enticing prizes while sup-

porting a good cause.

This year's tournament will be held at the Mariana Country Club and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash and

See HANMI on Page 26